Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-93-026 *10 February 1993*

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Cuba

Authorities Hold Two Citizens Trying To Flee

FL0902184793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued a note reporting the following: The Interior Ministry's border troops, with the courageous and decisive help of three workers of the tourism sector in Varadero, thwarted an attempt to seize at gunpoint a motorboat driven by two displaced individuals with the intention of leaving the country on the afternoon of 5 February. Comrade Eugenio Gonzalez Moya, a Cuban Communist Party member and an employee at the Super Club Tourist Center, died in the incident after falling into the water during a sharp maneuver made by the kidnappers in an attempt to avoid capture. Comrade Eladio Vasquez Nanez lost a leg after it was cut by the boat's propeller. Jesus Valdez Bolanes, the third Cuban worker, was not injured. The voluntary initiative of these patriots stopped the antisocial individuals from kidnapping a married tourist couple and later helped in their quick capture, as well as prevented the boat from reaching U.S. territory, which was the confessed goal of the two criminals. The culprits in this criminal action are Raul Manuel Corral de la Rosa, who served time for armed robbery, and Jose David German Aguilera, against whom there is a case pending for armed robbery. They have been transferred to the competent authorities to explain their actions.

Castro Continues Touring Santiago de Cuba Province

FL1002001093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today continued touring Santiago de Cuba Province in the company of other candidates to National Assembly deputy. Castro was nominated as a candidate for Electoral District No. 7, which comprises the northern area containing the settlements of Cobre and Boniato, as was Esteban Lazo, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Santiago de Cuba Province, and Carlos Cabal, the director of the Medical Biophysics Center.

Also participating in the tour are the candidates to delegate of the Santiago de Cuba Provincial Assembly of the People's Government. Such tours have become an expression of democracy and of unity between the people and their candidates.

Fidel has been visiting sites of economic and social interest in the electoral district since yesterday, and conversing with the workers and the general population. The first place visited on this second day of the commander in chief's tour was the community of Puerto Boniato.

CTC National Secretariat Holds Assessment Meeting

FL1002025493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The National Secretariat of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] has assessed how well the agreements and resolutions of the 16th CTC Congress have been complied with. Three years' worth of union work were evaluated by the members of the National Secretariat at CTC headquarters. The report lists as successes the strengthening of ties with the organization's grassroots, the growth of the unions' authority and influence, the workers' participation in managing the economy, and the fulfillment of the resolutions and agreements of the 16th Congress, among other points.

Francisco Linares, the minister president of the (?State Committee for Labor and Social Security), Agriculture Minister Carlos Perez, and Sugar Industry Minister Juan Herrera made special speeches concerning each of the sectors for which they are responsible. These three officials thanked the union movement for its backing and support and highlighted the workers' efforts to find solutions under extremely difficult conditions.

The last point on this meeting's agenda was the upcoming elections, to which the union movement summons all workers to vote for unity, which means voting for the nation.

Commentary Praises Relations With Mexico

PA0902220393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Relations between Cuba and Mexico are at an optimum as evidenced by three recent events. One was the warm farewell ceremony Cuban authorities and other sectors gave outgoing Mexican Ambassador Mario Moya Palencia, which emphasized the high esteem in which he is held. Moya Palencia, who presented his credentials in November 1990, did a good job fostering bilateral relations over the past two years and was awarded the Medal of Solidarity for his efforts. Cubans have not forgotten that Moya, in front of the statue of national hero Jose Marti in Havana, thanked his country for giving him the opportunity to be ambassador to Cuba and to get to know the Cuban people. The prompt appointment of his replacement, Beatriz Paredes, and Havana's immediate approval of the appointment reaffirm a mutual goal that current relations continue unchanged.

Cuba and Mexico also recently signed a cooperation agreement that provides for Mexican assistance to Cuba with procedural, economic, and administrative law to facilitate judicial investigations. Representatives of both countries promoted their shared interests during the 10th session of the Mexican-Cuban Bilateral Committee that took place in Havana. Although the representatives did not sign any

agreement during this session, they made 30 business contacts and worked on steps to start specific projects. Mexican representatives called for a search for new forms of cooperation and highlighted Cuban prospects in medicine production. The meeting was held in a favorable setting since Cuban-Mexican trade has doubled over the past 13 years and reached $200 million in 1992, an amount that experts believe can be increased. These experts emphasize the existence of ten Mexican commercial firms in Cuba, the full-blown operations of three mixed enterprises, and association in activities such as cement production and telecommunications.

As Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon stated during the farewell ceremony for Moya Palencia, the friendship between Mexico and Cuba has endured all sorts of tests and has proven to be unalterable.

Haiti

Agreement Reached on UN-OAS Civilian Mission

FL1002013293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The government led by Prime Minister Marc Bazin sent a communique today to the press advising that an agreement had been reached with the OAS and the United Nations for the sending of a civilian mission to Haiti. In this communique, the government advises that it is pleased that a compromise was reached on the agreement for sending an international civilian mission to Haiti. This compromise was reached based on the counter-proposal on the terms of reference the Haitian Government had written.

This communique, issued by the prime minister's office, also advises, and by the same token takes the opportunity to thank the OAS and the United Nations for their great understanding and their goodwill, which contributed to the success of the last phase of the negotiations. While we are anticipating the first elements of the civilian mission, it is only the first stage on the way to normalization and democratization of the political life.

This is what the communique issued by the office of Prime Minister Marc Bazin stated. At the end of this communique, the government assertes that it is willing to cooperate with the international civilian mission as far as its activities are concerned, while keeping within its mandate and not contradicting the Constitution or the national sovereignty.

Bazin Assesses Government, Economy, Crisis

FL1002014393 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

["Text" of speech as prepared by Prime Minister Marc Bazin for a 5 February delivery to the opening session of the National Assembly which was not held—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. President of the National Assembly, Mr. President of the Chamber of Deputies, and ladies and gentlemen of the legislature: On the opening of this parliamentary session, it is a great joy for the government and myself to express to each one of you our wishes in your personal life as well as in the exercise of your mandate, a mandate which, to have lived with you through the deviations of the last session, we appreciate the nobleness and also the difficulties. I address these wishes to all of you, to those who support our action as well as to those who oppose it. All, on the same account, contribute to the expression, which is extremely important, of the national sovereignty. Together, all of you represent the Haitian people. Allow me to add a special word of congratulations to the new office of the Senate of the Republic and also my wishes for success to all the new parliamentarians that the fortune of the ballots has recently designated to join your ranks.

Mr. President of the National Assembly, ladies and gentlemen parliamentarians: To assess the consensus and public safety government during the last six months is not a very difficult task. First, it is a short period. Furthermore, by luck of the calendar doing things right for once, I outlined the main aspects in a speech to the nation on 30 December 1992. In addition to that, an excellent document prepared by the Ministry of Planning presents the subject in a detailed manner.

The text of my 30 December speech and the document from the Ministry of Planning will be given to you. My speech will then be clear. When the consensus and public safety government took power, it had been basically 10 years since the production machine virtually stopped, investments ceased, foreign exchanges dropped, unemployment increased, and income per capita diminished. From 1980 to 1992, some marked changes occurred in our economic and social arena. Coffee only represents 20 percent of exports, while manufactured goods represent 60 percent. The portion of food products in our imports went from 15.9 percent in 1980 to 22.6 percent in 1989. Public finances rely more on the past than on indirect taxes. Those on fuel represented 18 percent of the total average revenue between 1988 and 1991. The public deficit, not financed by the external saving, has been increasing regularly. The gross national product has only deteriorated. It is against this backdrop of recession, which is somewhat chronic, that social and economic convulsive movements have cropped up, consecutive with the political crisis at the end of 1991, marked especially by the deterioration of the physical environment. There are these points: 20 square meters of arable land are lost every minute, a worsening of unemployment, a massive exodus of population to the city and abroad, a degradation of the sanitary and food situation, a commercial and financial embargo, a general slowing down of economic activity consecutive with a drop in industrial production, reliant on foreigners for its imports and exports, a volatility in the exchange rate of the national currency, a drop in competitiveness of the public firms such as Teleco [telephone company], EDH [electricity company], Minoterie [flour mill], Cement of Haiti, APN [National Harbor Authorities], AAN [National Administration Airport] whose financial situation have degraded to the

point that by the end of 1992, their global resort to bank credit was 130 million gourdes.

The general atmosphere at the time this government took power characterized itself then more by apathy than enthusiasm; more by worry than by triumphalism; more by skepticism than by proof. The government had to first create trust. That is what we did by assuring the regular running of the public administration and the continuity of the state, by maintaining an almost normal supply of essential goods and products in the country, by creating conditions for the operating of schools, hospitals, and businesses by guaranteeing the security of people and property, and peace on the streets.

Very quickly, the government has compelled recognition because of its capacity for working, its cohesion, its ability to clearly define its goals through time and space and to identify and mobilize the means that can allow these goals to be reached on the economic and social level as well as on the level of the institutions. On the economic level, it was—on the same question—of financing the public expenses that generate jobs while trying to contain the deficit within reasonable margins and without excessively aggravating inflation. This was obtained by a number of measures including, at the same time, a program of accelerating the recovery of the most marginal arrears, the modification of procedures for the collection of taxes collected from public enterprises, the reinforcement of the collection action plans, the freezing of numerous salaries, the elimination of regular and justified expenses, the accumulation of arrears on the external public debt, the reduction of more than one-third of the portion of the volume of expenses of the public sector financed through recourse to the Central Bank.

As for the total amount of money in circulation, it was able to record a contribution of 17 percent from June to October 1992. The internal credit for the same period increased by 17 percent. This was absorbed greatly by the public sector from then on. The private sector, paralyzed by the embargo, preferred to free itself from the banking system. Due to the lack of employment, the resources deposited by the savers have increased the excessive reserves of the commercial banks, which caused an excess of liquid assets of the banking system with, consequently a reduction of the credit rates, an acceleration of the deduction, a situation that the monetary authorities faced with a generally satisfying manner with the creation of a secondary reserve paid system, the raising of the ceiling of issue, and the establishment of an assessment mechanism of the progress of the public sector expenses.

By the end of June 1992, the inflation rate was at 12 percent. From July to November 1992, the progress of the price index to consumption was at 8 percent, being an increase of 1.6 percent a month. This relatively low inflation rate for an island economy cut off from exchanges with the rest of the world for one year, as outstanding as it can be, is explained by the sustained action of the government. This action was aimed at a double objective: It consisted on the one hand of facilitating the supply of the market in essential products by the liberalization of exchange and on the other hand, of making prices competitive in the internal market to keep the balance between the prices and the purchasing power, especially for rice, sugar, and flour.

We are going to, during the coming weeks, devote ourselves by priorities, to update the bill for the 1992/1993 budget that your parliament, hampered in its actions by internal strife, could not vote on in the past six months. It will be a real law of additional finance that we will complete our forecasts for the running of the economy and some budget fiscal recovery measures that have obviously imposed themselves. At the same time as its stimulation action and an (?inflected) [modul] control on currency, credit, and prices, the government has committed itself to an important program of public investment, aimed at creating jobs, improving income, reducing the degradation of the environment, and increasing agricultural production. This program of public investment covers drainage and refuse collection, transport roads, [word indistinct], solid waste collection, building of agricultural roads, penetration roads, hydraulic infrastructure, hydro- agricultural infrastructure, and protection and restoration of lands for approximately 70 million gourdes to which are added, of course, various payments agreed by the public treasury for the Croix-des-Bouquets and Malepasse Roads, and that up to now, total more than 40 million gourdes.

It is to point out also, on the industrial investment level, the implementation of a single operation for treating and selling rice, and the establishing of a factory for the production of electricity from wind, without forgetting the restarting soon of the national factory in Campos

On the social and educationsl level, several actions in the health sector are to our credit: reinforcement of first aid; community involvement; improvement of health services; promotion of programs for the fight against leprosy, AIDS, and malaria; increased programs for polio, measles, and tetanus vaccinations; and the building of installations for drinking water conveyances. Other accomplishments include a 50 percent decrease in the sale price of school books due to a 12.8 million gourdes subsidy for 1.2 million needy children; the creation and establishing of a technical high school diploma [baccalaureat]; bonuses paid to the public administration employees; payment of an unemployment allowance to more than 15,000 workers in the assembly industry; and the future establishing of a loan and scholarship system to thousands of students.

As for the institutions, the government's action includes 80 bills including laws on the Office for Citizen's Protection; decentralization; territorial communities; the progressive reinstatement to their post of most mayors who have faced difficulties since September 1991; the implementation of the communal, municipal and departmental courts; and the formation of the electoral council to which the Parliament contributed thanks to its

sense of duty and its determination by decisively appointing its own representatives. Such an assessment, ladies and gentlemen of the parliament, for a short and difficult period of six months is not, all false modesty aside, an inconsequential assessment.

However, nothing of what we have done could have been possible without the enlightened and firm support of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] and without the tireless, devoted, and effective participation of the parliamentary majority. We make a point of giving to the FADH and parliament, which are two pillars of the Villa D'Accueil Agreement, the public and shining tribute that they deserve.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen parliamentarians: The coming weeks will be marked by numerous important developments in the political crisis. As you know, this famous negotiation among the political players that the government has constantly wished for has finally started. We are even happier that the search for an acceptable solution to all the parties is the strong point of the mandate given to us. The first important element of the political crisis is the establishment of an international civilian mission, the principles of which are accepted by all the parties and whose practical terms are being negotiated.

Yesterday, 4 February, the UN/OAS special envoy left. He took with him the latest Haitian proposals in order to discuss them with those who gave him a mandate in New York and in Washington. If a certain closeness of the positions was reached on several points, there are still some points of disagreement. It is necessary to point out that the latest proposals that were given to the special envoy are the result of an extensive dialogue among several ministers; various parliamentarians, including the president of the Senate; the commander in chief and the FADH High Staff; the president of the chamber of commerce and industry; and representatives of the civilian society; as well as legal advisers.

The government is now waiting to learn the reactions of the OAS and UN secretaries general. It will keep informing the nation about how the negotiations are developing. If everything goes well, we are expecting a development in several stages: the establishment of a plan for watching and protecting human rights; the establishment of a plan for great institutional reforms; and the establishment of a plan for initiating political dialogue.

It is understood that in all the stages of this process, the parliament, cornerstone of democracy and keeper of an important part of the national sovereignty, will be regularly consulted and no final agreement will be valid without its formal approval. It is also understood that under those conditions, that it will be, generally speaking and even beyond these delicate negotiations, to reinforce the cooperation between the executive and the parliament, cooperation that will express itself, not only by the accentuation of the number of projects of economic and social interests to be realized in your respective constituencies but also by an increase in the means to be available to you in order to help the efficiency of the parliamentary work and also by a broader access for each one of you to all the avenues of the administration.

Therefore, the country is anticipating living through some difficult but fascinating times that, if God wants, succeed in the democratization of political structures; the broadening of the governmental consensus; the creation of an atmosphere of unity, tolerance, and harmony among Haitians; and in short, the normalization of the political, social, and economic life of our country.

Haiti today, poor country among the poor ones, must face a triple challenge. First, at a time of worldwide economies, we must invent the proper development strategy while our population is 70 percent illiterate. Second, we must satisfy the basic needs of our population in food, health, drinking water, education, while our own economic dish does not have any surplus for investment. Third, we must finally integrate ourselves in a world and regional process of democratization through mediation and the establishment of institutions while we hold in ourselves the inheritance of 200 years of collective violence and chronic division.

Those are the stakes. They go beyond all parties, all movements, all social classes, equally broken. The time has then come for rallying for the great cause of the nation. The time has come for thought and collective action in the face of the common drama. The time has come for reconciliation for a new beginning. It is in this spirit that, on behalf of the government and myself, I renew to you the assurance of a loyal and confident collaboration from the executive. I address to you my fervent wish for success in your new tasks for the new session. Up with the Haitian people; up with democracy, up with Haiti. May the God of the believers help us and support us! Thank you.

Pro-Aristide Demonstration in Leogane 8 Feb

FL0902161893 Port-au Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Over 2,000 people demonstrated against the current government in Leogane on 8 February. This demonstration was staged on the occasion of the funeral of a young man who was killed a few days before by military bullets in Leogane. Let us listen to more details by Ronald Saint-Surin.

[Begin Saint-Surin recording] Over 2,000 people participated in a demonstration in favor of the return of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide and against the government headed by Mr. Bazin. This demonstration was staged in the afternoon of 8 February after the funeral of Harold Raymond, known in Leogane as Tima, which was held in the Saint-Rose of Lima Church in Leogane.

The demonstrators left the church and marched past the barracks of the subdistrict while singing religious songs. They then went to the main street where they shouted words hostile to the government headed by Bazin. They were

demanding Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to power. [crowd shouts "Up with Aristide, up with Aristide."]

We point out that Tima died on the night of 29 January in Rue Noire, a residential neighborhood in the city. He was killed by three bullets fired by a soldier named Vital, who has now been transferred (?from) Leogane. This soldier confessed to the Justice Department that he committed the action, but that, in his opinion, it was not intentional but rather [the result of an accident] while he was chasing two thieves. Ronald Saint-Surin for Radio Soleil in Leogane. [end recording]

Police Question Journalist, Pledge Press Freedom

FL0902163693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Feb 9

[Excerpt] The Investigation and Antigang Service of the police department questioned journalist Colson Dorme yesterday morning a few hours after his abductors had released him in front of Radio Tropic FM. The military authorities called in the journalist in order to get information regarding the abduction.

Journalists present at that meeting, as well as Colson Dorme's lawyer, said it took place in a quiet atmosphere. In their statements, police officials assured the journalists present that the press can operate freely in Haiti.

A journalist from a radio station in the capital took advantage of the meeting between Colson Dorme and the military to lodge complaints against armed civilians who attacked him and injured his head with rifle butts. The journalist did not want to publicize this attack in order to spare his mother problems because of her heart condition.

The statements by the police yesterday at the Antigang Service prompt journalists to hope they can speak the truth without fear.

Costa Rica

Finance Minister: IMF Fiscal Requirements Met

PA0902194693 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 6a

[Report by Yanancy Noguera C.]

[Text] Finance Minister Rodolfo Mendez Mata has said the fiscal objectives of the IMF economic stabilization program were met fully, confirming this country's commitment to have a new program in place this year.

The deficit for the entire public sector in 1992 was the lowest of the past six years. The government agreed with the IMF that this deficit would be 12.7 billion colones or 1.5 percent of the gross national product [GNP]. Mendez said, however, the actual figure will be lower, although no final reports are available.

The most recent Finance Ministry figures show the goal was met because the central government, Central Bank, decentralized institutions, and public enterprises, which make up the public sector, performed as planned.

The central government deficit was expected to be 2.2 percent of GNP but was actually 1.9 percent (16.047 billion colones).

This was due to a 41-percent increase in revenues, especially in tax collection. Revenues amounted to 142.6996 billion colones and expenditures amounted to 158.7173 billion. Expenditures in 1992 grew 28 percent in comparison to 1991.

The Central Bank, whose losses increased considerably last year causing concern among economic authorities, registered a deficit of 2 percent of GNP (17 billion colones).

The deficits of the central government and Central Bank were compensated partly by a surplus in revenues over expenditures generated by public enterprises such as the Costa Rican Oil Refinery and Costa Rican Electricity Institute, which had a surplus of 1.3 percent of GNP.

Decentralized institutions such as the Costa Rican Social Security Institute and National Council for Production produced a surplus of 1.2 percent of GNP.

The goal this year will be a deficit for the entire public sector of 10 billion colones (1 percent of GNP). Minister Mendez said this will involve no additional efforts. He added 1993 will close with figures similar to those of 1992. The fiscal deficit, he said, could be reduced with a drop in inflation from 16.97 percent in 1992 to 12 percent in 1993.

Mendez said it will not be possible to further reduce expenditures this year. One of the areas that could still be reduced is interest payments on the foreign and domestic debt. He added, however, that this could only be achieved by privatizing certain enterprises.

El Salvador

Cristiani Views Drug Trafficking, 1994 Elections

PA0902133593 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Feb 93

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified moderator and foreign and local correspondents at the 2d Infantry Brigade headquarters in Santa Ana City—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] Jose Luis Magana.

[Magana] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Yesterday the National Police Executive Narcotics Division [Unidad Ejecutiva Antinarcoticos, UEA] reported that a significant amount of cocaine was seized. Some say the amount of cocaine seized by the authorities is a small percentage of the cocaine that passes through here to other countries, especially the United States. I want to know if the government and its police institutions have been able to determine what mechanisms the drug traffickers use.

[Cristiani] They use all sorts of mechanisms. We learn something new every day. There is sea, air, and land transportation. Based on the discovery at Acajutla Port, perhaps the largest drug shipment seized ever in that port, we have established that several countries, not only El Salvador, are being used to launder, let's call it that, documents.

Let's say, for example, that drugs are being shipped from Colombia to the United States. Anything from Colombia going to the United States is searched very carefully in the country to the north. Electronic devices, dogs, and so on are used to do this. To avoid this kind of search on arrival, the traffickers unload their merchandise in various ports prior to arrival in the United States so that the point of origin for their shipments changes. Then the merchandise leaves for the United States as if it had merchandise from a third country, thus avoiding specially diligent searches on arrival at U.S. ports.

By air, most of the traffic occurs at clandestine airfields, as in the last case that was discovered. There it became evident that the UEA requires better equipment to be able to react more quickly. In the latest incident, had the UEA possessed a helicopter, perhaps we could have captured the aircraft that landed. Mechanisms are being improved. At the Belize meeting we are going to see if El Salvador can acquire a radar system. This would make the struggle against air drug trafficking easier.

Land trafficking is, perhaps, the most difficult. Cooperation between countries is needed, and this is being sought. Many vans go through El Salvador in transit to other countries. We recently discovered, in addition to the case involving air traffic, a case involving land transportation. It was an ingenious case. All of you have seen books that have their inside section carved so that if the book is not opened it appears as if it were whole, but

if you open it, you find that it is hollow. These vans had asbestos sheets that had been carved the same way. The asbestos sheets on top and at the bottom were whole. The carving was done in the middle sheets. The sheets had to be taken one by one until the authorities got to the ones containing the drugs. Here we need support. We already have some. Drugs can be detected by trained dogs. The main thing, though, is to create a regional network of information and cooperation to follow up on shipments moving south to north.

You can recall that in Barra de Santiago we seized a plane, but unfortunately not the drugs. Information had been provided by the Mexican attorney general that an airplane was heading in this direction. The aircraft was tracked while it was flying over Guatemala and El Salvador. If a plane does not land in El Salvador, then we can alert Nicaragua, for example, so that the tracking can continue. This is how an aircraft can be tracked down.

These are the types of things we are going to discuss in Belize: regional cooperation in controlling drug trafficking.

The consumer countries, of course, should act in kind. This has to be a two-way effort, and here we are back again to what came first: the egg or the chicken. If there were no consumers, it would be useless for producers to produce drugs. The others say: If there was no production, there would be no consumption. I think this has to be a joint effort. Drug trafficking exists not only in our country. I am not being critical. I know that the United States is making a huge effort to control drug addiction and is cooperating with us. This must be an integral effort.

[Moderator] Angel Iraeta.

[Iraeta] Mr. President, we have been informed that you have asked the United Nations to cover the 1994 elections. We would like to know more about this.

[Cristiani] We have expressed a concern that the political parties reported to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. This tribunal decided to allow UN observation of the 1994 elections and delivered this request to us so that the government may see if it is possible for the United Nations to observe the forthcoming elections.

We know that the United Nations is prepared to send a contingent to the country to observe the 1994 elections. This would be done by a new department of the UN observers for El Salvador. Their first contact will be with the government, but the observers will deal directly with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. We have served as the channel for communicating this request from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

[Moderator] Alex Velasquez.

[Velasquez] Mr. President, thank you for coming to the pearl of the country's west. I have two questions. Has the government done anything about the stealing of trucks loaded with coffee in Santa Ana Department? Will the Armed Forces be directly involved in the effort to eradicate crime throughout the country?

[Cristiani] Since last week many questions have been asked about the crime issue. We have said we will issue a full report on the plans we have. Knowing there have been problems here with the coffee harvest, I can tell you the 2d Brigade has initiated preventive patrols in the coffee area. The 2d Brigade is working in coordination with the Santa Ana National Police Department, because it is the police who would engage in crime fighting. A while ago we spoke about this with Colonel Carlos Herrarte. We think cooperation will be fruitful, with the Army patrols taking preventive measures and securing information that is then passed to the National Police, and the police then doing public security work, fighting crime.

It is possible that we may increase our presence in other areas, little by little, where trouble spots may appear. In the western region we have initiated this because harvest time is here already.

We believe the National Police have many responsibilities and require much assistance in fighting crime. I have said the Army can help in the transit aspect [aspecto de transito] so that there may be more police available to fight crime.

The police have a shortage of men to give nationwide coverage, not to speak of the shortage of equipment—especially transportation and communications equipment—which makes effective work difficult. The entire plan will be made public though.

[Moderator] Raul Beltran.

[Beltran] Good afternoon, Mr. President. This morning we spoke with some UEA agents who told us about the serious problem that exists along the Salvadoran coast, especially in areas where cotton farming in the 1970's and beginning of the 1980's has left dozens of airfields that drug traffickers use. Some said they would recommend the destruction of those airfields in spite of the fact that they are on private property, but the health of the Salvadoran people and the image of the nation are vital. They also wonder if they could get an Air Force helicopter, considering that we are finally enjoying peace in the country. My second question is: What is going to be done with organizations such as the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers [ANDA] and the Directorate of Urban Development and Architecture, which leave holes that prevent traffic from flowing and cause traffic jams?

[Cristiani] Regarding your first question, it is not necessary to destroy agricultural airfields if we have the necessary equipment for air control operations. That is one request we are going to make. To improve our control of drug trafficking by air we need radars. These radars do not have to be very sophisticated because our territory is very small. If we place a good antenna, a good radar, in San Vicente Volcano, which is practically in the center of the country, we would be able to cover the

entire national territory, not only the coast, where most of the airfields you mentioned are located.

I think we have to give UEA equipment. Since UEA depends on the president, we have already placed a Hughes-500 presidential helicopter at their service whenever they have to carry out an operation. It is available for their use. The Air Force has helicopters that do not fly too often now. They used to fly a lot. It is expensive to fly a UH-1H Huey helicopter and the country does not have much money. The Air Force fuel budget has been cut. I think that a Hughes-500 is enough for a quick response. The ideal thing would be to have a radar for air control purposes.

Perhaps through the aeronautics department we could determine what airfields are being used. In recent years no cotton has been planted in areas that were affected by the war and that faced problems. We do not know if now, with the new situation, agricultural work will begin again in that area. If so, the airfields would be needed again. We believe that this has to be studied. The problem in the country is not so much the number of uncontrolled airfields. There are not too many. I don't know how many we have, but if we ask how many airfields there are in Guatemala, we would find that they are a big problem. Our problem is that we need control equipment. Then the airfields would be no problem. Regarding ANDA, the Public Works Ministry is coordinating all of this. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President.

Onusal Says FMLN To Complete Weapons Destruction

PA0902135293 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 8 Feb 93 p 11

[Text] The UN observers for El Salvador [Onusal] mission has reported that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] will conclude the destruction of its weapons on 11 February.

An Onusal communique said the destruction of weapons used by the rebels throughout 12 years of war has "considerably increased" in recent days at the sites established by the peace accords.

The accords signed on 16 January 1992 put an end to the armed conflict, which left $1.8 billion in damage.

Onusal said the weapons destruction, which began on 1 December 1992, is being carried out according to a schedule established after UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali sent a letter to the UN Security Council reporting the process had been interrupted.

Butrus-Ghali's 29 January letter to the Security Council said the FMLN had pledged to complete the weapons destruction on 15 December, when a definite cease-fire was confirmed. But the FMLN failed to meet the deadline and the 29 January deadline.

The Onusal communique says all the subversives' weapons "have been and are under the supervision" of the Onusal military division, "which will continue to watch closely the destruction process and provide technical assistance."

New Police Agents To Receive Specialized Training

PA0902230093 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] According to Jose Maria Monterrey, National Civilian Police [PNC] director, next week the 500 new PNC agents will begin taking courses to specialize in various police tasks, and by the end of February they will be deployed to the country's interior.

The PNC is a product of the peace agreements, and its director has said that all graduates will take training courses in the fields of security and transit, among others.

Monterrey is aware that police agents will receive a low salary, but he said the government cannot pay more than the amount established in the national budget.

Monterrey said he does not expect new agents to engage in corruption as agents of former police institutions did.

The first contingent of PNC agents to replace the Transition National Police, who have been in the former war zones since September, will be deployed at the end of February.

Monterrey has justified sending the agents, including more than 30 women, to former war zones such as Chalatenango, Cabanas, and Morazan by explaining that there have never been local authorities there, and the number of victims of criminal actions is increasing.

Agents will be assigned to San Salvador at the end of 1993 in accordance with the schedule established by authorities.

Monterrey has said he will see that the agents of the institution he heads go to the streets well equipped so that they do not become victims themselves.

Beginning this month, the National Public Security Academy will have a daily graduation of police agents, just as is established in the peace agreements.

Cocaine Consignment Revalued at $23 Million

PA1002001093 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 8 Feb 93 p 10

[Text] A consignment of cocaine seized by the Drug Trafficking Executive Unit [UEA] in the early morning hours of 5 February was valued at 184,996,000 colones.

As was thoroughly reported in the 6 February edition of EL DIARIO DE HOY, a consignment of cocaine headed

for Miami was seized at an airstrip on La Concordia (El Papayal) estate in La Montanita Municipality, Jiquilisco, Usulutan.

According to police sources the cocaine shipment had been initially valued at 27.5 million colones. When it was revalued, however, the previously mentioned new amount was determined. That figure is approximately $23 million.

It was also said that Mauricio Gustavo Linderman Castro, the estate owner, normally received $100,000 as payment for allowing each landing.

A source disclosed that according to the investigation, between 1800 and 1900 on 4 February a twin engine Cessna landed in La Concordia and several bags containing 649 packages of cocaine weighing 660 kg were unloaded from the aircraft. The aircraft took off toward Colombia after unloading its cargo.

A tractor used to haul the aircraft toward the unloading site as well as a pickup truck used to signal the aircraft while landing were also seized during the operation.

A van from which several bags of drugs had been removed was also found abandoned under some trees a few kilometers away from the landing strip near the Litoral highway detour to Jiquilisco. The narcotics were also located.

The seven people arrested during the operation made a deposition on 7 February at UEA headquarters. It is expected that sometime on 8 February they will be turned over to a San Salvador court for the necessary arraignment.

The arrested individuals include Marcos Gustavo Linderman Castro, 28 years old, owner of the estate and landing strip; Jose Domingo Gonzalez Flores; Humberto Rivera Magarin; Daniel Alfonso Flores Velasquez; and Juan Antonio Aleman. The last three accused were employed by Linderman Castro.

Other people arrested include Herberth Gonzalez Diaz, a Guatemalan national who continues to insist to newspaper reporters that he is Salvadoran, and Gerardo Acevedo Ossa, a Colombian using a Venezuelan passport.

The UEA has received numerous commendations as a result of this operation, which is considered one of the most important in recent years.

Guatemala

Government Confirms Talks With URNG To Resume

PA1002032393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The government confirmed this Tuesday [as heard] that the dialogue with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] will resume on 23 February. Over the weekend of 5 February, the URNG denied President Serrano's assertions that the insurgency leadership was reluctant to step up the negotiation process. Manuel Conde, head of the government peace commission, confirmed that the talks will resume on 23 February.

[Begin recording] [Conde] Mediator Monsignor Quezada Toruno sent us a summons late in the afternoon of 5 February that proposed resuming the negotiations on 23 February. President Serrano immediately instructed me to respond and tell him that the government is totally willing to attend a meeting on 23 February. The mediator has not yet sent me all of the information, but it seems as if the URNG will also be present. We have asked the mediator to inform us as soon as he becomes aware of the insurgency's position so we can coordinate the meeting.

Every Guatemalan knew, because the mediator said so upon his return from Mexico, that Msgr. Quezada Toruno would schedule a meeting in the third week of February. The government viewed that fact quite favorably because it really shortened the time before our next meeting. The URNG told the mediator that they would not be available in the third week of the month, and President Serrano made the announcement. The meeting was again postponed because the URNG could not attend. The mediator verbally informed us of this on 4 February, pardon me, on 3 February, and President Serrano made the disclosure.

We have truly waited a long time to return to the negotiating table, and it is important that the URNG express its views at the negotiations. Over the past few days President Serrano has made very clear statements in favor of achieving a peace agreement within the very short term.

[Unidentified reporter] Commissioner, [words indistinct] negligence on the URNG's part?

[Conde] I believe that at present we are in agreement regarding 23 February. What the president pointed to as a lack of resolve was the postponement of the meeting for another week. I believe that very often the URNG waits for situations to unfold in other areas before making certain decisions, but at this time the Guatemalan people and the international community expect us to go to the negotiating table very soon so we can reach agreements and achieve positive results.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Conde] I would wait for the Congress President [Jose Lobo Dubon] to disclose the subject matter of Congress' conversations with the insurgents and to state who attended the meeting, because it does seem strange to us that they mentioned that soldiers were present. We are aware that any Guatemalan who wants to go to Mexico to look for them can talk with the insurgents, or if they are fortunate enough they might meet them on a Guatemalan road or mountain. I will soon be talking with Lobo Dubon, however, because I am quite interested in knowing the results of his meeting with

the insurgents. The political parties have displayed an interest, and they have directly participated in the negotiation process. Members of certain political parties may have spoken with the insurgents, but we have no specific information to that effect, and we are very interested in the results of their talks and what issues were discussed. [end recording]

Decision Not To Extradite Ochoa Ruiz Upheld

PA1002042193 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpt] The 10th Court of Appeals upheld on 5 February a resolution issued by the judge of the Fifth Court of First Instance denying a U.S. Government request for the extradition of Lieutenant Colonel Rene Ochoa Ruiz.

The appellate court's resolution is based on the fact that Ochoa Ruiz is party to a suit being processed by a court-martial for the crime of importing and possessing cocaine with the intention of distributing it in the United States.

The extradition request is based on actions for which Ochoa Ruiz is facing process No. 16,142 of the court-martial, which is why the extradition request is inadmissible. An extradition would be an open violation of human rights such as liberty and due process. That is why there is no choice but to confirm the resolution issued by the Fifth Court judge.

The appeals court modified the reference that First Instance Judge Baudillo Portillo Merlos's resolution made to the extradition request by establishing that the request was presented not by the Government of the United States of North America but by the Government of the United States of America. [passage omitted]

Trade Agreement With El Salvador Ratified

PA1002043693 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 6 Feb p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park announced that "on 5 February, Guatemala ratified the Free Trade and Economic Integration Agreement with El Salvador, which was signed on 17 March in Antigua Guatemala."

Menendez added that "Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano and Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani believe that a complete free trade zone should be established between both countries to promote domestic economic development and improve living conditions for their people."

Menendez said that "the presidents agreed to eliminate as soon as possible any measure that in any way limits, restricts, or opposes a free commercial exchange between both countries."

The presidents also agreed to formalize a single customs system within a two-year period. They plan to do this through a bilateral commission, which will analyze the actions needed to formulate a free trade program.

Menendez said that "establishing a common external tariff for imports and exports to and from other countries, setting the basis for a common customs administration whose revenues will be distributed equally and carrying out studies to harmonize or bring about uniformity in macroeconomic policies are among the measures the two governments have agreed upon."

Menendez said that to this effect both governments will establish bilateral commissions to carry out studies and negotiations. The commission also will be able to request technical and financial support from regional, international, and private institutions in the two countries.

In conclusion, Menendez stated that "the presidents will inform the other presidents in the region of their decision and will urge them to join in this integration effort."

Honduras

Callejas Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues

PA0902214793 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1829 GMT 8 Feb 93

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, moderated by unidentified speaker, with foreign and domestic reporters; place not given—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified Reporter]...Mr. President, violence in the country has increased, especially in San Pedro Sula. This requires additional police participation. The police have stated it needs more resources and funds and a bigger budget. Would you please comment on this matter as the Armed Forces general commander? Also, it has been repeatedly reported that many crimes go unpunished.

[Callejas] The issues are different. Impunity is not necessarily related to the presence of public security forces. There are several reasons for criminal impunity. Many times a crime goes unpunished because charges were not presented. Relatives, friends, or an organization of a person who has been murdered or has suffered from other criminal actions do not take the time to present formal charges at the corresponding legal offices. This hinders the capacity....[pauses] We have many examples of such cases. I was just discussing the situation with General Luis Discua, Armed Forces chief, and the human rights commissioner and we noticed that victims seldom formalize the corresponding charges. This, of course, prompts our concern because we cannot conclude an investigation if charges have not been presented.

Regarding your other question, we know what has to be done on a short-term basis and it is being done: We are strengthening our public security forces with Army resources. At a later date, there is a possibility—which we still have to study—that we will be able to strengthen

the public security forces themselves. On a short-term basis, however, our actions are geared to giving the public security forces prompt assistance from the Armed Forces.

[Moderator] Herman Reyes of ACAN-EFE will ask the next question.

[Reyes] What will be Honduras' position at the upcoming summit of banana-producing countries in Guayaquil, Ecuador? Also, United Brands stated recently that it will reduce production by 30 percent and you had asserted that you expected banana production to be 55 million cases by the time your term ended. I would also like your comments on this matter. Thank you.

[Callejas] The banana problem is a very serious one. The EC position at the agriculture ministers council will negatively affect all the banana-producing countries. Our position at the Guayaquil summit will be to continue to try to stop the proposed EC resolution as it will prompt a drop in banana exports from Latin American countries, including Honduras. We will continue political actions to stop the resolution and, at the same time, request that GATT members—Honduras is pending GATT membership—take the pertinent legal actions to avoid such a truly unjust commercial action, which is inconsistent with free market concepts and free trade in the modern world.

Chiquita's [United Brand] statements are correct. The negative effects of its decision will not necessarily be seen this year. It could be that my government is able to meet its goal regarding banana production. I believe, however, the issue should not be approached so irresponsibly as we want to have a permanent and growing banana industry.

The situation presented by the EC foreshadows a bleak future in the sector. Chiquita has already decreased its purchase of bananas from independent producers. This year, Chiquita will reduce its purchases of bananas from independent producers by 30 - 50 million cases, not only in Honduras, but in its entire international operations. The problem is very serious and definitely requires national action. We are meeting with the Forum for Economic and Social Agreement on the afternoon of 8 February and we believe the forum agenda has to include a joint decision on a strategy to try to maintain our banana export level. The issue can be discussed from the fiscal, commercial, organizational, etc. points of view.

Hondurans have to establish better conditions to produce bananas in the country. We have to start an improvement process and the government is most willing to work with society to maintain and surpass the country's banana production. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Francisco Valeriano Giron of Voz de Honduras Network [HRN] will ask the next question.

[Giron] Good afternoon, Mr. President. I would like to ask you two questions. First, the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA] report, which was accepted by this government, recommended an added rate to the cost of gasoline to provide funds for road maintenance. Given that other proposals have somehow failed, according to the report, would you accept the ECLA recommendation?

The second question concerns the presence of military forces in San Pedro Sula. It is believed that this is a temporary measure to stop the crime wave in that city. What programs will the government implement to return San Pedro Sula to normal once and for all?

[Callejas] During the environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro, the world's private business sectors, in a very interesting book called Changing the Course [Cambiando el Rumbo], told participating countries that one of the basic means to avoid the destruction of the environment and environmental pollution, and to obtain financing for appropriate environmental or road programs, was to increase fuel prices or taxes.

This is a very controversial issue because consumers want cheap fuel, and the environment and society demand the opposite. This is a contradiction in the talks between petroleum consumers and producers. Logically, it would be a very interesting alternative if the road fund the country needs to provide long-term maintenance of the national road infrastructure was financed through that source. For the time being, however, we are not considering this alternative. We believe we can create this road fund by using other sources of income, such as granting concessions to companies to administer highways or paved roads to generate the initial road fund resources.

The country needs a permanent source of funding to begin this action to avoid large investments in road building or construction, given that the country does not have a well-designed medium- or long-term road maintenance program. But at this time, the government does not believe that this alternative is the most appropriate for the short term.

We believe that other sources of public sector financing may be devoted to funding the programs for road maintenance and construction.

[Giron] What about the presence of military forces in San Pedro Sula?

[Callejas] The Army will remain in San Pedro Sula, as I said earlier, as long as it is necessary. We should keep in mind that the soldiers cannot replace the police. This will prompt us to seek other alternatives, which we are ready to consider.

The important thing now is to reduce the level of violence with the presence of Army forces. Later, we will seek long-term solutions to the security problem and the presence of public security forces in the country's cities.

[Moderator] Here to ask the next question is Cristobal Sauceda of HRN.

[Saucedal] The Honduran flag was hoisted in El Zancudo, Nahuaterique, a territory the Honduran state recovered thanks to the ruling by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] on 11 September 1992. The worrisome aspect is that the groups that support the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the large landholders who took control of several hectares are disputing that territory. Honduran authorities, however, are weak. They are allowing deforestation in the zone. Salvadorans do that at night and sell the timber in El Salvador. On 8 February the Honduran Government started several community development programs. The Salvadoran attitude, and I have talked to them and the FMLN supporters, is to continue as Salvadorans and to continue taking advantage of that that belongs to Honduras. What is the government's final stance on this matter?

[Callejas] The first thing we must do is take full control of our territory. That is what we are doing. We are concerned over the illegal logging activity. San Salvador had this as a forest reserve, and we are doing the same. We will reach an agreement to declare a forest reserve area or an area where exploitation is limited, and we will take control of it. We must, however, go by stages, and the first one is taking place today. Afterward. we will bring schools and health services. We will exert total control over the area, based on the ICJ ruling, which is giving rise to the problem of citizenship—of who is going to be Salvadoran or Honduran—and land tenure problems. We have a specific instrument to deal with those problems, the Binational Commission, which is tasked with handling the complaints of people living in that Honduran region. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] German Reyes will ask the next question.

[Reyes] What stance will your government take during the Group of Three meeting to be held this week in Caracas? What repercussions could the Costa Rican decision to take steps on a bilateral basis have?

[Callejas] We feel that this meeting, which is a continuation of the one held in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico, and which Colombia will now join, is opening up major expectations from the standpoint of Latin American and, most of all, Central American integration. This is a vital phase that under the criteria we feel must be discussed will make it possible to hold the final negotiations in June on the most important regulations, those on the certificate of origin of production. Once we do that, it will be possible to enter a large number of the Colombian, Venezuelan, and Mexican markets.

This gives Central American industrialists, businessmen, and farmers a true opportunity to achieve their goals of expansion. Of course, a series of economic problems exist that would have to be settled afterward, namely, taxes in Central America and those countries are not necessarily the same. We must reach this phase. Their and our public service rates are not necessarily the same. Certain products in some of these nations are subsidized and fuel is subsidized in Venezuela. This means we must reach a balance based on the cost levels of each of the countries. This phase will come in time. Access to these markets is vital for Central America. Costa Rica's act is within the framework of Central American integration and decisions. The only condition is that decisions made during bilateral negotiations must be compatible with the multilateral agreements that are operating among the other countries, and with those we may sign with any nation outside Central America. We authorized each Central American country to act based on its interests within the framework required. But any such negotiations must not produce agreements that go beyond or do not cover everything contained in the Central American multilateral agreements.

Nicaragua

Government To Establish Weapon Collection Stations

PA0902222693 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Report by Rosa S. Herrera from the Government Ministry Directorate of Public Relations and Press in Managua—live]

[Text] The Government Ministry will establish mobile weapon collection stations in all regions nationwide to facilitate the people's surrender of weapons to the Special Disarmament Brigades [BED]. Those surrendering weapons will be given in exchange a package of staple foods including rice, beans, sugar, oil, soap, and [word indistinct] worth (?$80) or the equivalent in national currency.

Municipalities to be favored with the program are Ocotal, Esteli, Matagalpa, Juigalpa, Matiguas, Yali, La Dalia, and El Rama, among others. This new method of surrendering weapons has already been employed in regions one, four, and six and will be extended to several Managua neighborhoods.

Making these mobile stations available to the people represents an administrative effort by the BED because it must transfer personnel, equipment, and food packages without receiving additional resources. The program is funded by aid from Italy.

Another option is that a person can receive work tools and 50 percent of the value of a rifle in cash. The Government Ministry has also announced that it has a plan for the BED through which it expects to recover a large quantity of weapons.

Directorate of Public Relations and Press, Government Ministry

D. Ortega Cited on FSLN Strategy at Assembly

PA0902222193 Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish 4-10 Feb 93 p 4

[Article by Orlando Castillo E.]

[Text] During the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] Assembly in Managua during the weekend of 29 January, Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the organization, surprised the audience with a new twist in his statements during the course of the tight agenda.

Convened by the Departmental Directorate Committee, the purpose of the assembly was to discuss the party's political strategy; to unite and strengthen the FSLN; to promote the state of law; and to continue the struggle for social justice with the purpose of strengthening peace and national stability.

The discussion of certain basic problems, the work for a political consensus among the different existing ideological currents, as well as the need to list the FSLN's assets, were also among the topics to be covered.

When discussing the FSLN strategy, Ortega gave a historic review of the social processes in Eastern Europe and Cuba. He talked about "a new reality that we have yet to assimilate," referring to the Sandinist movement.

He said "society demands many changes" and that "it is more difficult to be a revolutionary now than when we were in government." He then talked about "the displacement of Sandinism in a new social order."

Since the revolutionary movement did not get the opportunity to develop its economic plans because of the political problems it had to face and the war, it became necessary to review the methods of organization and adjust them to the new circumstances, Ortega said.

Reflecting on the need to understand the variety of ways in which the Sandinists are now grouping themselves, Ortega gave the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] as an example of this diversity. He said large, medium, and small producers are members of the UNAG and they are able "to achieve unity despite their own differences."

He said the FSLN is experiencing a situation of "convergence or cogovernment in the political field," based on very concrete realities, but this does not mean there is full agreement in the economic or social fields, he said.

The concept of convergence prevailed in Ortega's speech when referring to the urgent need to work in a coherent manner for the economic well-being of the people and for democracy.

As for currents of thought, one of the topics on the agenda, and referring to "Sandinists for a National Project," Ortega said centerists are miscalled because they are actually Sandinists. He said members of the political center are only those National Opposition Union deputies who are loyal to the executive branch. Ortega said these deputies are beginning to agree with others and there is a consensus, especially when it comes to tolerance of ideas and unique styles. Ortega asked district leaders and political secretaries not to wait for FSLN deputies or other leaders to get involved in organizational work because these leaders have their areas of work and must follow the political guidelines approved by the Congress.

Some of the attendants told EL SEMANARIO that at the conclusion of the meeting, Victor Tinoco, political secretary in Managua, had not been convinced about the "convergence" between the FSLN and the government in the political field.

Panama

Further Reportage on Kidnapped Missionaries

Said Still in Panamanian Territory

PA1002012593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Presidency issued a communique stating that the kidnapped missionaries and the guerrillas who carried out the act are still in Panamanian territory. National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez made the statement. This statement, according to the Presidency communique, is based on intelligence reports resulting from investigations in the region. Security officials on 8 February visited the posts set up in Darien Province. Those officials are Carlos Bares, director of the Institutional Protection Service; Menalco Solis, executive director of the Public Security and National Defense Council; and Immigration Director Antonio Dominguez. The executive's representative explained that security forces are continuing to comb the mountainous region very close to the Colombian border. The operation's main goal is to locate the kidnapped missionaries and make the public forces' presence in the area apparent. The discovery of poppy and marijuana plantations and drug processing installations and their subsequent destruction justify the operation, according to the police director.

Residents in El Real, La Palma, Boca de Cupe, and surrounding areas, according to the Presidency's communique, appeared pleased with the Panamanian police authorities' presence. According to the residents, there is fear in the area due to the occasional presence of guerrillas who come from Colombia to Panama.

The media is barred from the region. This video footage was supplied by the Presidency. RPC obtained exclusive footage of the region, but at the request of the national government it has not been shown. Intelligence reports disclosed that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are carrying out raids in the region. That Colombian guerrilla group was identified as the perpetrators of the kidnapping of the missionaries who belong to the New Tribes Mission. At the time of the kidnapping

there were approximately 30 people belonging to that sect. All of them have been evacuated from the area.

Justice Minister Cited

PA0902185193 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 9 Feb 93

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas and Isabel Castro]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier has said he does not know about the alleged deaths as a result of clashes between Colombian guerrillas and Panamanian security forces in Darien Province. Panamanian security forces are trying to rescue three U.S. missionaries who were kidnapped nine days ago in the region of Pucuro.

I have no details to report and until I receive information, I cannot comment on the situation, the government and justice minister said, although there is speculation that some casualties have occurred during "Operation Free Border."

Reports indicate that in El Real, where the headquarters of the counterinsurgency operation was established, a medical team is standing by.

Another cocaine processing laboratory was found in the Darien jungle. The Police Rapid Deployment Group (counterinsurgency commando) on 8 February destroyed 90 hectares of marijuana and cocaine plants that were detected in Pucuro.

So far, there are no signs of New Tribes missionaries David Mankin, Richard Tenenor, and Mark Rich, who were kidnapped on 31 January by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The area of Pucuro is characterized by intertropical jungle vegetation with a small population, most of whom are Indians. Lumberjacks, gold prospectors, and illegal aliens live in the region.

Trails in the area are camouflaged by the jungle connecting Panama and Colombia. Like the border, Pucuro is unprotected, which allows for drug trafficking, gun running, and the entry of illegal aliens.

Assembly To Expedite Approval of ARI Bill

PA0902215993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 1A

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] After unanimously approving Article 3 of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) bill, the Legislative Assembly plenum decided to discuss the 64 pending articles by chapters or in blocks to expedite the approval of the law establishing mechanisms regulating the reverted areas.

Gisela Chung, legislator for the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, presented the proposal, which was considered by an absolute majority to advance the debates on the bill, which began three weeks ago.

The decision adopted by the plenum made the legislators of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, jump out of their seats, arguing that the proposal was not properly explained and violated the regulations.

"This is a mess," PRD Legislator Miguel Bush said, while his fellow party member Franklin Rivera shouted: "You are a bunch of insolent people who have been doing whatever you feel like with this bill."

Bush and Rivera grabbed the original proposals from the assembly secretary and took them to the PRD section. The debate had to be suspended temporarily because of the opposition's protests.

Assembly President Lucas Zarak finally convinced the opposition that "whatever the plenum decides must be done." A progovernment legislator commented: "we must exercise power and talk less."

Article 3, which was approved on the night of 8 February, deals with the objectives to be accomplished through the ARI and its creation as an autonomous institution. Article 2 defines its functions.

Following the changes made on the night of 8 February, the debates will continue with Chapter II (Articles 4 and 5) on attributions; Chapter III (Articles 6 to 19) on administrative organization; Chapter IV (Articles 20 to 25) on patrimony, finances, and controls; Chapter V (Articles 26 to 54, although a consensus has been reached to eliminate Article 16) [article number as published]; Chapter VI (Articles 55 and 56) on special regulations for acquisitions; and Chapter VII (Article 57 to 67) on final dispositions.

The Legislative Assembly internal regulations permit the discussion of extensive bills by chapters. Finance Minister Mario Galindo, however, said "it is a very bad method."

PRD Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd's demand to have the ARI bill discussed article by article failed.

Aleman Boyd told LA PRENSA there are business sectors in Panama and the Colon Free Zone that are already demarcating areas or zones they hope to obtain once the ARI assumes the administration of the reverted areas.

Boyd added that the Panamanian people are so frustrated that they remain indifferent to the efforts of certain legislators to deliver a law representing the interests of the majority and not of a minority that only seeks wealth.

Gisela Chung said legislators from various blocs have met with Lucas Zarak to discuss formulas to expedite the debates.

Chung criticized the fact that after three weeks of debates, only three articles have been approved. "Many

legislators are taking advantage of the importance of the law and are using rhetoric for political benefit," she said.

Legislator Jose Antonio Sossa, of the Christian Democratic Party, accused the PRD of delaying the sessions through arguments that are "repetitive and empty and make no contributions whatsoever."

Linares on Wittgreen Extradition, Darien Operation

PA0902140993 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Julio Linares by reporter Homero Londono in Panama City—live or recorded]

[Text] Carlos Wittgreen, the man identified as deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega's business adviser, was arrested again by Peruvian authorities, according to diplomatic sources.

According to reports, Wittgreen, who disappeared from the reach of Peruvian authorities in October 1992 when he was granted temporary status by Peruvian Court No. 18, was captured at noon on 8 February.

[Reporter Homero Londono] We have Foreign Minister Julio Linares on the line. We will ask him if the arrest of Mr. Carlos Wittgreen in Peru is true. Good morning, Foreign Minister.

[Linares] Good morning. What can I do for you?

[Londono] Go ahead, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Linares] I understand you are interested in knowing about the arrest of Mr. Carlos Wittgreen.

[Londono] Yes.

[Linares] Mrs. Doris de Velasco, the Panamanian consul in Peru, called me on the morning of 8 February. She told me she had learned that Mr. Wittgreen had been arrested. That is the information I have from the Panamanian Consulate in Peru.

[Londono] Mr. Foreign Minister, what will happen now?

[Linares] We have to continue with Mr. Wittgreen's extradition process, which Panama had requested from the courts in Lima. That is what will happen now.

[Londono] Finally, we would like to know what contact have you had with the Colombian Government regarding the operations being conducted in Darien Province. Have you had any contact with them?

[Linares] We have not made any new contact. I had originally talked to the Colombian foreign minister about the situation. She said she would immediately inform the Colombian Defense Ministry so they could contact our authorities, who are involved in the search operations in Darien Province. I have not received any additional information from our authorities that would cause us to make any additional contact. If the authorities in Darien believe it is necessary to make new contacts, I will immediately call the Colombian foreign minister. This will not happen unless it is necessary. The authorities in charge of the operation will tell us.

[Londono] Do you know if the Colombian Army is involved in the Darien operation?

[Linares] If you have any questions regarding the operation, I would prefer you ask the Government and Justice Ministry, which is in charge of the National Police and the security forces in Darien.

[Londono] Have there been more protests filed regarding the two Panamanians in the U.S. Army who were tried for drug trafficking?

[Linares] What are they protesting? We must not forget one thing. These two Panamanians are also U.S. citizens. We are facing a typical case of dual nationality. When these cases come up, Panama considers them Panamanians, but for the United States, they are Americans. I will tell you something else. Here in Panama we complain about everything, often without investigating in depth.

You know there are large numbers of Italian immigrants in Argentina. According to old Italian law, the sons of Italian parents were Italian nationals, even though they were born abroad. Just prior to World War I, an Argentine soccer team went to Italy. A large number of players on this team were sons of Italian immigrants and, according to Italian law, they were Italians. What happened? When the soccer tournament ended, the Italian Government prevented the players from leaving, saying these men were Italians and had not done military service.

You can see the type of problems that come up in these cases. These situations have even been taken into consideration by international law. There are treaties that establish that when a person has dual nationality, he only has to do military service in his country of current residence. These situations could even lead to international conflicts.

We look at these people as though they were Panamanians, but we cannot disregard the fact that they are also U.S. citizens. They were doing military service in the U.S. Armed Forces and they were trying to ship drugs from a U.S. military base to the United States. That is a reality we have to take into consideration.

[Londono] Even though the crime was committed in Panama?

[Linares] Sir, there is a treaty with which we have to comply. The Torrijos-Carter Treaties clearly establish that when the crime is committed on a military installation, the United States has primary jurisdiction in the case. The best defense a small country such as ours can have in its international relations is to comply with treaties. We cannot attempt to disregard treaties because of two Panamanians who are also U.S. citizens. If we

tried to violate the treaties, it would be useless because these two gentlemen are not in our hands. They are in U.S. custody.

[Londono] If they had committed the crime here in Panama....

[Linares, interrupting] Then it would be a different story. If they had committed the crime in Panama, Panama would have primary jurisdiction. In these cases, when a country has primary jurisdiction, the treaties state that the second country may request the primary jurisdiction for humanitarian reasons. That is just what Panama did. Panama requested jurisdiction for humanitarian reasons. The United States said it declined this request from Panama, first because they were U.S. citizens, second because the crime was serious—it was a drug trafficking offense—third because the drug was going to be sent to the United States, fourth because it was committed on a U.S. military base, and fifth because as soldiers they were not only subject to U.S. law but to the military code as well. Those were the reasons. The treaties establish the procedures in these cases and we cannot violate them.

[Londono] Thank you.

Linares on U.S. Forces' 'Bids' To Repair Airport

PA0902233793 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said on 8 February that as of this moment the Foreign Ministry knows nothing about the Panamanian Government authorizing the U.S. Southern Command to solicit bids for repairs to the Enrique Malek Airport in David, Chiriqui Province.

The foreign minister's statements were prompted by remarks made by Civil Aeronautics Director Zozimo Guardia, who said the U.S. Southern Command, with the national government's authorization, is soliciting bids to repair that landing strip.

Asked about the bid opened by the U.S. forces stationed on the banks of the Panama Canal, Foreign Minister Linares said: "I cannot say whether it is authorized because no one has informed the Foreign Ministry about this."

Linares said there is a psychosis in Panama because any event involving the U.S. Army is believed to be a violation of the Panama Canal Treaties. He said Panama and the United States have diplomatic relations beyond the Canal Treaties, and the relationship between the two countries is not limited to the agreements signed in 1977.

Linares said the majority of the U.S. soldiers' activities have nothing to do with the Canal Treaties because the Panamanian Government often authorizes the United States to help repair hospitals, schools, and even landing strips.

Civil Aeronautics Director Guardia explained that the U.S. Army requested authorization to use the Enrique Malek Airport landing strip for the duration of the "Fuertes Caminos 93" operation, which will involve a number of works in this part of the country's interior.

According to Guardia, the U.S. Southern Command will invest approximately $800,000 in the work, which will benefit the users of the aforementioned airport. He added that the money will be used to coat the landing strip with asphalt and that the bid is being held among Panamanian companies.

Guatemalan President on Banana, Integration Policies

PA0902174293 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[News conference by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano at the Presidential Palace in Panama City, moderated by Rene Hernandez, Panamanian presidential press secretary, with domestic reporters—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter]...meeting with President Endara. We would like to know what ideas surfaced to strengthen the position at the upcoming summit in Ecuador.

[Serrano] This was precisely one of the topics we discussed with President Endara. We believe Central America and in general Latin America—the banana producing nations—have an obligation to define a policy. We must assume a stance in light of the hardening of the position on the liberty to sell our bananas as we have been doing in the past. President Endara has an interesting proposal. I suppose he will present it when the time comes. My country upholds the view that we should not have a quota system, as this violates the GATT and the [word indistinct] in general of world trade. We believe Europe should consider some sort of plan, within the GATT spirit, to allow Latin American banana producers to compete on the European markets.

I have also discussed this with some of the other Central American presidents. We want Europe to reconsider their position, as our trade balance with the EC is, frankly, very unfavorable for us and very favorable for them. I have a lot more to say on this issue, but this is not the time. We must wait for the results of the Guayaquil summit [words indistinct].

[Hernandez] Ricardo Samaniego from TVN Television.

[Samaniego] Has the United States ever offered to assist Latin America and Central America in this problem with Europe?

[Serrano] In my opinion, we must take the initiative. We must look for [word indistinct] our natural partners in this business. There are some U.S. firms and some Mexican companies operating in the Central American

region. In addition, there are buyers in Europe from certain countries who do not want to lose access to the Latin American banana market. The Latin American banana has a much higher quality than the one they have access to through the EC. I feel we will have to reach the point of taking actions with the support of our partners in this business.

[Hernandez] Jose Gomez, Telemetro Canal 13.

[Gomez] On another subject, Mr. President. Great steps have been taken in Central America to achieve integration. Are these steps truly in line with the needs or the progress of each nation?

[Serrano] In my opinion we, Central Americans, have no choice but to integrate. Just two days ago I told a group of Guatemalan businessmen during the inauguration of a new stock that the United States, Mexico, and Canada did not consult us when they established a free market. They reached an agreement to meet their own interests, and this is a reality we must now face. Guatemala is a small nation with a 800 km border with Mexico. If we do not integrate, if we do not raise the level of our production, we will be overwhelmed by the North American market. It will become very difficult for us to progress. The integration process will allow all of Central American nations to complement each other. Certain nations, such as Panama, have a more developed service sector. It would be much better for us to use the services offered in Panama, instead of using the services offered in Miami, New Orleans, or Wall Street. I think the complementary factor is a much more important factor in order to strengthen our nations. We must realize there are many industries to which we do not have access because our markets are not large enough. If our market grows, the level of our production can grow and then we can consider going into heavy industry. I believe the Central American common market's policy, in effect since the 1960's, concerning the substitution of exports has been successful. The globalization of economies and the organization of economic blocs, however, imposes totally different challenges. We must have the ability to compete efficiently in the megamarkets. We have do this by increasing the level of production on the local markets and the way to achieve this is through integration. For the time being, I see no other way. It has its problems, I know this. In Panama, much has been said about integration and some opinions have been negative. Nevertheless, as far as I have been able to determine, many of those who express opposition do not understand the integration process. An integration process is not just set out in black and white. It is a process that leads to free trade. For example, mechanisms must be created to activate the local industry so it can integrate gradually to enhance competition. Our nations are more competitive in some areas, so we cannot let the integration process destroy our local economies. We must find formulas to harmonize our industries and make them progress.

[Hernandez] Javier Ortega of Radio Exitosa.

[Ortega] Good morning, Mr. President. Returning to the banana issue, what are the points of agreement between the Guatemalan and Panamanian Governments that you will take to the Guayaquil meeting to pressure Europe to resolve the problem that has arisen in Central America? What are your views on the return of Rigoberta Menchu and all the Indians to Guatemala?

[Serrano] We discussed with the Panamanian Government a host of possibilities that range from holding meetings with EC countries to taking reciprocal actions as a bloc of Central American and Latin American producers. There are many options, but I think it is best to wait for the results of the Guayaquil summit.

I would like to tell you that Ms. Menchu has returned to Guatemala as often as she has wanted to. She returned before and after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. The current repatriation is just one more of a series that have taken place. To date in Guatemala, 17,600 Guatemalan refugees have been repatriated. In addition, over 15,000 of those 17,600 have returned in the past three years; 2,000 returned in the latest repatriation.

We have reached an agreement with some commissions representing some of the refugee groups concerning this kind of repatriation called en masse repatriations. We have scheduled other repatriations for the next few months.

[Hernandez] Juan Ramon Rojas of ACAN-EFE news agency.

[Rojas] Mr. President, do you have specific figures on the impact on the Guatemalan economy due to the restrictions the EC is trying to impose? I would like to know your position regarding the summit meeting of the Group of Three [G-3], Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico, that is going to take place in Caracas.

[Serrano] I do not have precise figures. Guatemala is producing approximately 40....

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] 40 million cases of bananas.

[Serrano] It does have an impact chiefly on the economy of the northern area, in Izabal Department, which is where banana production is basically concentrated. The land is good, is suitable for that purpose, and the area is close to the port.

As for the second question you posed regarding Guatemala's relations with the G-3, we attended the first meeting held in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. At that time, we felt the need to propose a free trade zone between the G-3 countries and Central America. A six-year period was established to study the characteristics of the zone so it can begin to function as such. Two years have passed since then, and during that time Guatemala has signed bilateral free trade agreements with Venezuela and Colombia. In addition, we signed a framework agreement to discuss a free trade agreement with Mexico. This means we have made some progress. We feel

the Caracas meeting will constitute a major step toward the creation of the free trade zone among these 10 countries of the region.

We feel this is productive because we are gaining markets, although it does entail a challenge for Guatemalans, as we must become efficient to keep foreign products from overwhelming our market and damaging national production. The government has been taking some measures to promote industrial and commercial modernization in Guatemala, such as fiscal incentives. We are constantly urging the private sector to modernize so it will be prepared to compete with the many markets we are opening up.

[Text] [Hernandez] Only three more questions. Alexander Calderon of Radio Mia.

[Calderon] Mr. President, it is said U.S. economic policy could endanger the summit to be held in Guayaquil. What alternatives will presidents of Latin American banana export countries propose to face that situation?

[Serrano] I am sorry, I did not quite understand the first part of your question.

[Calderon] It is said U.S. economic policy could endanger the Guayaquil summit. What specific alternatives will Latin American banana export countries propose to face that situation?

[Serrano] I heard President Clinton's message to Caribbean basin countries. Based on his statement, his solidarity, and the importance he gave to the handling of trade, I do not believe U.S. policy will endanger the summit or will be negative toward our countries. I am under the impression President Clinton will give special emphasis to commercial aspects of U.S. trade with Caribbean countries, which has grown internally and has greatly benefited U.S. economy [words indistinct]. I see no danger in U.S. policy.

[Calderon] However...

[Hernandez, interrupting] Journalist Moreno of Associated Press. The president has other commitments.

[Serrano] What did you say?

[Calderon] I was referring to U.S. economic policy toward the EC, not directly toward Central America or the Caribbean.

[Serrano] Thus far, we believe U.S. economic policy encourages trade with our countries, and therefore will be favorable. What will happen in the future? We do not know. So far, however, it looks favorable.

[Moreno] Good morning, Mr. President. Regarding the guerrilla conflict in your country, we understand that talks will be resumed on 23 February. What does your government expect from the new negotiations?

[Serrano] By proposing an intensification of the negotiations to end the conflict in 90 days my government has made the most advanced proposal ever made during the 33 years of conflict. What does my government expect? We hope the guerrillas will show goodwill to find a solution in 90 days to end a struggle or armed confrontation that has caused bloodshed in our country for more than 33 years. That is what is in our hearts, and what we hope for.

[Hernandez] The last question will be by Alfonso Zamora of DPA.

[Zamora] It is said that although the sunimit will be a meeting of blocs, there could be differences because regardless of what is decided or implemented on 1 July regarding quotas and customs tariffs, banana producing countries will also implement quotas among themselves.

[Serrano] We insist the quota system is unjust because countries that could expand their production are not allowed to do so. In addition, we believe a quota system directly contradicts the spirit of GATT, freedom of market, and free access to markets. Guatemala will not accept discussing the subject based on quotas. Instead, we would do everything possible to find just and equitable solutions to participate in European markets.

Bolivia

Military Opposes Government Policy on Chile

PY1002001293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1853 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpts] La Paz, 9 Feb (EFE)—Bolivian military officers reiterated their opposition today to strengthening commercial ties and signing an economic complementation agreement with Chile before negotiating a sea outlet for Bolivia on the Pacific coast.

General Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti, Armed Forces commander in chief, and Victor Vargas Salgueiro, defense under secretary, reiterated the military's opposition to the Bolivian Foreign Ministry's policy toward Chile.

Commenting on the current trade talks with Chile to the local press, Vargas Lorenzetti said: "My position is that the Bolivian right to a sea outlet must come first."

Although emphasizing the significance of reaching economic agreements with neighboring countries, Vargas Salgueiro said that, in the case of Chile, these talks "must be conditioned to a solution to our sea outlet problem." [passage omitted]

The policy of strengthening trade ties with Chile that has been implemented by the government of President Jaime Paz Zamora during the past three years was endorsed last week by the pro-government majority bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. This support was described as "a defeat for those supporting belligerence."

Commenting on the trade talks with Chile, Paz Zamora—who is determined to make Bolivia regain its influence in the Pacific coast—said that "the cold war with Chile is ending." He made it clear, however, that there is no plan "to reestablish diplomatic relations with that country."

Closing a course for military attaches, Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean said yesterday that "it is imperative for the nation that foreign relations and national defense go hand in hand, that their formulators work together, and that they function as a team."

MacLean said the Bolivian and Chilean economies are different. Thus, he said, to strengthen trade with Chile places Bolivia in "a delicate situation." He expressed, however, his convic
better bargaining position to the extent in which its economy is strengthened."

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry has asked the Chamber of Industries to submit a list of 100 products that would have access to the Chilean market within the framework of the agreement on economic complementation the two countries expect to sign during the first half of 1993. [passage omitted]

Interview With Interior Minister Saavedra

PY0902195593 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 7

[Interview with Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra by Mario Canipa Vargas; place and date not given]

[Text] [Canipa] As in the case of many difficult matters that are filled with rough and obscure paths, an endless number of rumors have been created on the drug trafficking issue and the success claimed by the government. What is the Patriotic Accord government's evaluation of drug trafficking in Bolivia in the last few years?

[Saavedra] We can say that with the antidrug campaign we have confiscated many metric tons of drugs, a large amount of precursors, and we have arrested a large number of traffickers. We have achieved many important things during these last three years in three essential areas and in a fourth that is in process.

The most important thing is that although drug trafficking has become a serious criminal action in our country, violence has not been unleashed in Bolivia. If we analyze countries that produce, distribute, and consume drugs, one of the elements characteristic of drug trafficking is violence, as in the case of Peru, where terrorism linked to drug trafficking unleashed a wave of violence that jeopardizes the democratic institutional system.

If we analyze the Colombian case, as a drug distributor country, the violence unleashed by drug traffickers places the country in a state of continuous danger. If we consider part of the United States and some of its cities, there is violence over drug consumption.

Bolivia has been fortunately saved from violence, and that is an important achievement. I do not have the exact figures but in the last three and a half years there has been an effective attack on drug trafficking in the country, and the number of casualties, either in confrontations, murders, or other situations, is not higher than five.

There is a second element. The country's image, which had deteriorated quite a bit, especially in the 1980's when the governments tried to recover that image, but no one has done it so resolutely as this government, when, except for some isolated cases, for the first time there is conclusive national and international public opinion that a resolute war was waged against drug trafficking. We cannot say that it has been defeated, but, as never before, it is obvious that Bolivia is fighting and has attained important achievements.

Another element is the impunity issue. We can say that impunity has ended in Bolivia, and there are concrete examples such as the case of (Luis) Arce Gomez and the "repented" ones.

Traffickers are either found and prosecuted or they are given the opportunity to turn themselves in without violence.

These are the three essential elements. The fourth is that referring to alternative development. Although the achievements in this area are not so visible as in other fields, I would say that little by little we are entering a period of accomplishments, creating an opinion in other friendly countries.

[Canipa] Concerning alternative development, notwithstanding your evaluation, criticisms have surpassed the congratulations. It is said that it is full of good hopes but nothing else.

[Saavedra] I want to tell you something. I held a conversation with economist Jeffrey Sachs on the drug trafficking issue, and I told him that in Bolivia we have 25,000 hectares of illegal coca plantations. I explained to him that it is rather ridiculous for this country to live with the image of a drug trafficking nation because of the 25,000 illegal hectares.

We have to change this situation. We have to eradicate those 25,000 hectares by giving job opportunities to the peasants, more investment, and more resources in order to make it clear that drug trafficking can be eliminated but with different and modern ideas, with more investments and more creativity.

[Canipa] You have said the impunity of drug traffickers has ended, but they continue enjoying a good life even in their prison cells, from where they leave when they want to and where they spend very little time because their sentences are too short.

[Saavedra] I was referring to impunity in the sense that these people no longer feel free, even with their own protection, to continue working illegally without being persecuted.

What you are mentioning is a matter that concerns justice in general. The very structure of our prisons, which are a different world where keeping strict control is much more difficult, is also part of it.

Concerning sentences, in fact, the courts either do not find sufficient charges, which are difficult to prove, or they do not impose sentences as desired by the executive branch.

The matter is much more complex. It is related to other factors, and it is not as easy as believed. To sentence a drug trafficker is very difficult because clear evidence is needed, and this cannot be achieved at times. The people feel that they know when someone is linked to drug trafficking, but when the time comes to prove it, it becomes very difficult.

That, to alleviate the responsibility of the courts, is very complicated.

[Canipa] It is complicated, for sure, and not only for the courts, which must base their trials on the evidence you provide. The courts have nothing to prove; you have to do it.

[Saavedra] And for this reason I am saying that at times it is very difficult for the courts. The new law probably will strengthen the so-called actions and interrogations. I think we are progressing and that is important.

The idea that drug trafficking will be defeated overnight or in three and a half years of an administration is rather naive. But we can say for sure that we are improving.

[Canipa] Are the courts the weakest point in the struggle against drug trafficking? This already has been said by other people involved in this struggle.

[Saavedra] It is very difficult to categorically say yes or no. For this reason I am telling you that in many cases sufficient evidence cannot be found, and the judges cannot impose sentences with only the proceedings at hand. In other cases there is clear evidence and no sentences have been given for deception or whatever.

In fact, much progress can still be achieved in this area, but I am convinced that we are getting there.

For the sake of saying something, of the latest 100 cases of criminals engaged in large, medium, and small trafficking activities who have been tried, more than 80 percent have been sentenced.

[Canipa] Yes, but they were given very light sentences.

[Saavedra] Well, only in some cases. In other cases the sentences were tougher, such as that given to (Carmelo) Dominguez, alias Meco. That was not a light sentence.

[Canipa] He was sentenced to 21 years in prison, but the Appeals Court reduced the sentence to 12 years.

[Saavedra] The court made that decision based on the available information. The sentence is more or less within the framework of Law No. 1008. We do not have death sentences. Our objective is not to set a precedent with sentences of 20 or 30 years in prison but to effectively fight drug trafficking.

[Canipa] It is difficult to totally eradicate drug trafficking. It is like a giant with a thousand heads. As soon as you cut one head it grows another head. Surely there are other drug traffickers who control the trade now.

[Saavedra] I agree. It is like the monster you describe. Other drug traffickers take the place of the ones we capture. But the new ones have less experience, less resources, and fewer contacts. This is why we have had so many successes in smaller operations in the past few months.

There is a lot of sensitivity about the official figures on this issue. A person who knew a lot about drug trafficking was former DEA chief in Bolivia (Don Farrarone), who worked here three and a half years. He said that during the period he was here the shipment of drugs from Bolivia dropped 50 percent. He also said that 18

out of the 22 groups and families involved in drug trafficking in the country disappeared and that only four groups remain today.

These figures are important because they were given by a very knowledgeable person, a person who represents a very strong international organization, and because U.S. officials do not release figures unless they are factual and can be corroborated. We have been doing all right and this is the proof.

[Canipa] I had an opportunity to see at least a couple of foreign television programs where Farrarone also talked about the leak of official information before operations, the consequent escape of important drug traffickers, and the resulting loss of time, money, and efforts.

[Saavedra] The interviews you are mentioning were recorded a long time before they were released. One of those interviews was produced by journalist Peter Jennings (of the U.S. ABC network). We have advanced a lot since he visited Bolivia a year and a half ago.

One of the aspects where we have advanced is corruption. I ask you if any important corruption case involving drug trafficking has been reported in the last year and a half to corroborate Jennings' report. We did not have a single case. Just check the press.

We cannot say we do not have any corruption. It is impossible to eliminate it because they are very powerful. But scandals involving high-ranking political or government officials have disappeared.

We still have corruption. The liberation of the Colombian citizens was detected in time. Inmates have fled from jail. A short while ago two drug traffickers were allowed to leave prison to spend Christmas in their home town.

You also will agree with me that we cannot talk about a level of corruption that is destroying the country's democratic institutions. We cannot speak of legislators who have links with drug trafficking or who are protecting drug traffickers. We cannot say that drug traffickers are buying football teams, that they control certain political circles, or that they have a certain political party. That does not happen in Bolivia.

We cannot dismiss corruption at lower levels. There are hundreds or thousands of people linked to this trade who can effectively, with a small amount of money, corrupt a policeman, a judge, or someone else. We cannot prevent a jail guard in Trinidad, or some jail guard in Cochabamba, from releasing a drug trafficker. Those things are very difficult to control.

[Canipa] The Army is participating in the fight against drug traffickers. There are new rules in our relations with the United States, and in general the climate surrounding this topic is less controversial now than in the past. What is next in the fight against drug trafficking?

[Saavedra] In the very near future we plan to continue the same policy of reinforcing the renovating ideas on alternative development and to continue a series of operations to dismantle this business.

Our grand objective now is to keep the peace and prevent violence from engulfing the country.

[Canipa] Are there any obstacles to maintaining peace?

[Saavedra] The government is concerned. One of these concerns involves the issue of Colombian citizens and the infiltration of some Colombian drug traffickers into Bolivia. The Colombian experience shows that drug trafficking there is much more violent. All our efforts during 1993 will be directed toward frustrating those groups' attempts to enter our country.

But that is not an obstacle to keeping the peace because we are making a serious effort. The population may rest assured that peace will be maintained, just as we managed to reduce the drug trafficking problem in the past few years.

In sum, drug trafficking is a very complex issue. We are making progress and we must continue advancing to try to solve the problem.

Brazil

Haddad Meets With U.S. Treasury Secretary

PY1002021493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The IMF will not change its relations with Brazil in the renegotiations for a new agreement. Today in Washington, Finance Minister Paulo Haddad met IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

Before that meeting Haddad, who heads President Itamar Franco's team, had his first contact with U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The first meeting between the Brazilian finance minister and the U.S. treasury secretary lasted almost one-half hour. The meeting concluded when Lloyd Bentsen told Paulo Haddad: I hope we will be able to resolve some of these problems. But Haddad's next meeting was the most important of this trip. He held a meeting of more than two hours with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

[Haddad] The IMF recognizes that changes have taken place in the country's economic and political situation, that 1993 is different from 1992, and that there are possibilities that we may be able to reach an agreement with the necessary changes with the IMF mission that is arriving on 1 March.

[Reporter] Haddad could not assure that Brazil has the extension of the agreement with the IMF in its hands. He said it would be irresponsible to say that before the IMF mission comes to Brazil. What Haddad wants is that the IMF mission arriving on 1 March carry out negotiations,

after the first two weeks of technical work of analyzing the figures of the Brazilian economy's adjustment program. [end recording]

Government To Extend Life of Securities

PY0902003893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Feb 93 Economic Section p 4

[Article by Beatriz Abreu from Brasilia]

[Text] The stabilization program might eliminate financial investments that mature daily. This measure would result from the government's decision to extend the life of government securities, which will represent an expenditure of $8 billion for the government this year.

Planning Minister Yeda Crusius stated yesterday that "the extension of due dates is one of the tenets underpinning the economic program. This already has been announced by Finance Minister Paulo Haddad." She added: "We must stop fueling inflation by changing the maturity profile of investments."

Reporters questioned Crusius closely about whether she meant that that would spell the end of investments such as the Fundao [Financial Investment Fund], which mature daily, but she declined to answer the question.

"Ask that question to Haddad and Maria da Conceicao Tavares," Crusius answered, alluding to the finance minister and the UFRJ [Federal University of Rio de Janeiro] economy professor, who contended this week that the major problem the government faces in curbing inflation is the daily rollover of the government debt. Crusius refused to comment on studies made by the Finance Ministry and Central Bank on the extension of government securities' life and on the program to beat inflation.

Crusius only put forward the following argument: If the government extends government securities' due dates, what are now "financial returns" will become "a capital increasing investment in the country." She insisted, nonetheless, that it is incumbent upon Finance Minister Paulo Haddad to deal with short-term questions.

Upon being asked about the impact of the redemption of government securities, which will amount to $3.5 billion to $4 billion this year—according to what was made public by Haddad—on inflation, Crusius said that "the redemption is important because it lessens the need for rollover, it pushes interest rates down, and thus checks inflation."

According to Crusius, the government will implement two other complementary measures to control inflation, namely the elimination of the government's enormous liabilities and the efficient and sensible use of budgetary mechanisms to finance programs for low-income families.

Crusius further stated that "there are two economic indicators that point to a considerable decline in indices. They indicate that the upward trend in prices registered during the first week of January did not continue during the first week of February." Crusius ruled out the possibility that prices will shoot up in March on account of the advance bimonthly adjustment of minimum salaries and the price of clothing.

Crusius explained: "The market will offset those increases with other products, the price of which will not go up so much." She confirmed that the average monthly inflation estimated in the federal budget is 18 percent. Crusius repeated Haddad's words: Inflation will be gradually reduced this year until it gets to 14 percent in December.

U.S. Surtax on Steel Imports Assessed

PY0902214593 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 3 Feb 93 p 21

[Article by Elio Gaspari]

As far as U.S.-Brazilian relations are concerned, the George Bush administration put an end to one stage while the Bill Clinton administration started with a kick in the shin. Both Bush and Clinton, in barely a week, imposed a surtax that can run as high as 150 percent on Brazilian steel exports, thus threatening to throw annual trade of $100 million overboard. Brazilians could not have received a better lesson.

Those tariff barriers were imposed as a result of allegations by 12 major American steel mills and affect 18 other countries besides Brazil, including Great Britain, Korea, and Japan. The American steel mills accused the aforementioned countries of unfair trade practices and contended that they could not compete with business rivals that are subsidized by their governments. To some extent, this contention sounds harsh, especially because Brazilians' irregular practices are beyond the range of a businessman who is used to paying his debts. The cancellation of privatized companies' debt is, by way of example, a present given by the government to businessmen who buy production facilities. In other cases, it is an indication of mere hypocrisy. They contend, for example, that the credit granted by the Bank of Brazil to Acesita [Itabira Special Steel Company] for the buy-back of its debt on the secondary market at a discount of 25 percent was a subsidy. If purchasing $1 worth of debt for $0.28 is a subsidy, then the American banks are the ones that are granting subsidies because they are selling their commercial papers at that price.

(In all likelihood the aforementioned surtax will be changed for quotas, by means of which the American industry will guarantee its monopoly and share less important ones among other countries. As for Brazil, what was stolen with steel quotas would be enough to reequip steelworks for 100 years.)

If we analyze the situation leaving aside the technical question, we arrive at the conclusion reached by Richard Needham, the United Kingdom's secretary of state for trade [title as published]: "Over the last few years, U.S. steel production has become inefficient and thus is no

longer competitive. It is most regrettable that a country that prides itself on being the cradle of free trade should have taken such a measure."

If we inquire further into this matter, we will realize that the unexpected turn in U.S. economic policy toward protectionism has taught Brazil an important lesson. Bill Clinton believes his generation is entrusted with the task of changing the world, but until this change is brought about, he would rather have unemployed workers in Minas Gerais State than in Philadelphia. He has the right to have a mind of his own. What does not seem appropriate is that Brazil should adopt a similar industrial policy. It is said that the Brazilian economy is one of the most closed in the world but that is totally false. According to a study by the World Bank, tariffs levied by the United States (including the surtax) currently run at an average of 23 percent while import duties in Brazil stand at 17 percent.

Americans contend that many Brazilian steel mills are inefficient, and were it not for government subsidies they would never be able to compete with American steel mills. Why then did the Americans impose a surtax on British, Korean, and Japanese steel? Could it be that Nippon Steel is like the National Iron and Steel Company, located in the town of Volta Redonda?

The protectionist measures adopted by the Clinton administration stem from its decision to defend U.S. national interests. The U.S. Government will use the power it has to preserve U.S. industries and jobs. This decision will affect world trade, which instead of expanding will end up establishing a system in which stronger nations will fight tooth and nail to defend their white elephants by wiping out competitors from weaker nations, whether or not they are competitive.

Brazil's national interest is to preserve its industry. Nobody should be alarmed then, either in Pittsburgh or Sao Paulo, if in order to attain this goal, our country has to secure a domestic market for its products. Brazilians owe Clinton a debt of gratitude because he has taught them that it is the bound duty of all citizens to defend their heritage and their jobs.

President Supports PT Program To Fight Hunger

PY1002012793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco will propose to the Brazilian people discussion of a plan to fight hunger that was presented by the Workers Party [PT]. Luis Augusto Mendonca reports.

[Begin recording] [Mendonca] The meeting between PT President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and President Itamar Franco concluded a few minutes ago. After one and one-half hours of discussion it was agreed that there will be a broad discussion of the plan and the PT will cooperate as much as possible—including the participation of party members—in the task of explaining and executing the entire plan. Lula, what did the president say about the proposal?

[Lula] He was interested, particularly because of our willingness to elaborate a project and analyze it with society. He showed enthusiasm when I told him that during my meeting with representatives of different sectors of society on 4 February—which included entrepreneurs, the Catholic Church, the evangelical church, and the [word indistinct]—the people present expressed their commitment to give priority to working in this area. I talked to the president about the need to create the conditions to involve the entire society in this project. The problem of hunger is not only the government's responsibility because government policies alone will not solve this problem.

[Mendonca] On 18 February government leaders will meet with PT representatives in Brasilia to create a commission that will be responsible for drafting an action plan to begin implementing the plan to fight hunger. The issue of the suspension imposed on Minister Luiza Erundina by the PT was not discussed at the meeting between Itamar Franco and Lula. [end recording]

SAE Replaces Intelligence Director Romao

PY1002022193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Feb 93 p 2

[From the "Political Outlook" column by Ricardo Amaral: "The Victory of Intelligence"]

[Text] The OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE UNION yesterday reported an appointment that represents a victory for Strategic Affairs Secretary [SAE] Mario Flores over the old intelligence community, which still exerts its influence on the SAE. The gazette carried the appointment of Rubens Bizerril, who replaced Wilson Romao as director of the SAE Intelligence Department.

Romao, a retired colonel, was inclined to make the type of suggestion that would annoy Admiral Flores. For instance, Romao advocated the reshaping of the intelligence service in the mold of the old SNI [National Intelligence Service], with all the old official schemes such as the Security and Intelligence Divisions—DSI's—in each ministry.

In contrast, Flores seeks to provide the government with an intelligence service that would analyze information and not engage in clandestine operations to capture people, which is what the SNI used to do. To remove Romao was also a delicate task for Flores because, as a longtime friend of President Itamar Franco, Romao had managed to make life difficult for Flores.

First Brazilian Satellite Placed in Orbit

PY0902190293 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 9 Feb 93

[All times as heard]

[Text] The first Brazilian satellite has been put into orbit after a delay of more than an hour because of problems in the tracking radar. At 1140 Brazilian time the satellite was finally placed in orbit. The launch was broadcast live to the entire world.

A B-52 plane carrying the Pegasus rocket to which the satellite was fitted took off Cape Canaveral in Florida at 1220. The rocket was launched one hour and 20 minutes later, once the plane reached 12,000 meters. The launch cost $3.5 billion, that is, more than 60 billion cruzeiros. The satellite will transmit data on the environment to the Space Research Institute in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State.

The Brazilian satellite cost nearly 2 trillion cruzeiros and is the result of 15 years of research. The construction of the satellite at the Space Research Institute in Sao Jose dos Campos involved 400 researchers and much care to keep dust particles from entering. The data-collecting satellite is simple. It weighs 115 kg and measures less than one meter in diameter. The project cost 2 trillion cruzeiros and was ready after three years of delay.

The countdown seemed an eternity as everybody anxiously awaited the launch.

Chile

Vargas Reaffirms Rejection of Proliferation

PY0902153693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0104 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Santiago, 8 Feb (EFE)—Acting Chilean Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas stated today, 8 February, that his country has never possessed nuclear or chemical weapons and voiced assurances that his country rejects the proliferation and tests of those weapons.

Vargas said this upon welcoming Russian Ambassador to Chile Vasiliy Gromov with whom he analyzed the Russian report "New Challenge after the Cold War: Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction," released by two international news agencies on the supposed existence of chemical and atomic weapons in Chile.

Vargas recalled: "Chile has pleaded for the denuclearization of Latin America, is opposed to chemical weapons, has signed documents on this matter, and resolutely seeks the elimination of these weapons from the earth."

Gromov, who denied that his country had information on the report, told Vargas that his country appreciates and supports Chilean efforts to strengthen international and regional security.

Defendant in Letelier Case Sees U.S. Motive

PY1002014893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Report by Claudio Mendoza]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Radio Cooperativa Network, Army Brigadier General Pedro Espinoza Bravo stated that former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier was a Cuban agent and the institute he headed in Washington, D.C., was full of KGB agents. This is the reason why the United States was so interested in killing him. He had become a problem for the United States.

This is the first time Gen. Espinoza—who, together with General Manuel Contreras, is charged with murdering Letelier—has made a statement for radio or television, and therefore this is the first time his voice has ever been recorded.

After signing the register book at the Supreme Court—a monthly requirement imposed on him by the Supreme Court—Espinoza confirmed that he had given a passport to [former National Intelligence Directorate, Dina, agent] Armando Fernandez Larios so he could travel to the United States. He added that this passport was not forged and [former Dina agent] Liliana Walker can testify to the fact that he had issued that passport.

Upon being asked about the real culprits in Letelier's murder, Brig. Gen. Espinoza said:

[Begin Espinoza recording] Mr. Orlando Letelier was an activist and was considered as such by the U.S. Government. He was an agent. In the United States he was considered as... [pauses] It has a special name that escapes me. He worked for the Cuban Government. Further, Mr. Orlando Letelier got mixed up with U.S. senators who had connections with the GDR and other communist countries. Moreover, the institute he headed was teeming with activists and KGB agents. Therefore, the U.S. Government was most interested in eliminating a problem it had in its own country. [end recording]

In addition, Brig. Gen. Espinoza reiterated the allegation of his attorney, Miguel Retamal: Michael Townley [alledged CIA and Dina agent] admitted he had planted a bomb, which did not explode, on 18 September 1976. Townley further reported that some Cubans later detonated a bomb at Letelier's house, but, according to Brig. Gen. Espinoza, the bomb that killed Letelier was planted at the house of [Letelier secretary Ronni] Moffit. Townley did not reveal who was responsible for this attack.

Espinoza further stated that Dina had no information about the real danger Letelier represented to Chilean security. He recalled that Townley had testified that Letelier met Gabriel Valdez, the present Senate president, on two or three occasions at Kennedy Airport. Brig. Gen. Espinoza explained that the Dina could not have gotten that information unless it had had agents at the airport.

It must be pointed out that Gen. Contreras contends that the CIA killed Letelier.

To conclude, Brig. Gen. Espinoza, a former Dina operations chief, stated that he felt hopeful that he will be acquitted.

Colombia

Court Upholds Internal Disturbance Decrees

PA0902193193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Report by J.J. Pinilla]

[Text] The Constitutional Court upheld the government's decision to declare a state of internal disturbance.

[Begin Simon Rodriguez, Constitutional Court chief magistrate recording] As the decrees were carefully thought-out and in step with the insecurity and destabilization the country is experiencing. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Rodriguez did clarify that civilians, not the military, will conduct inquiries and order the removal of corpses in strife-torn areas, as the judicial police cannot arrive fast enough. He added that the media can report news on acts of terrorism or actions by the guerrillas without carrying live broadcasts or interviewing the protagonists.

The Court also upheld the government's measure to suspend governors and mayors who hold talks with guerrilla groups without authorization from the Executive Branch. It supports the witness protection programs for the trials of drug traffickers, terrorists, and guerrillas. At any rate, the Court's ruling offers the most important support to the actions by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo to fight terrorism.

Reaffirms Freedom of Press

PA0902202593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The Constitutional Court has reaffirmed the guarantee of freedom of the press. It also noted that the media must remain calm when situations could endanger national security.

The Court's statement was made after analyzing the government measures taken within the framework of the state of internal disturbance to fight terrorism and drug trafficking.

President Cesar Gaviria reiterated his government's respect for freedom of the press, stressing its commitment to defend democracy and to preserve a state of law with citizen participation.

Ecuador

Acosta Coloma Appointed Acting Energy Minister

PA0802151693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government has appointed Francisco Acosta Coloma as acting minister of energy and mines to replace Andres Barreiro.

Acosta Coloma, an outstanding government official, has served as undersecretary of hydrocarbons. He is the son of Supreme Court President Francisco Acosta Yepes and for several years has been an adviser to the Latin American Energy Organization.

The new energy minister announced that he will work to attain new international bids.

Lack of Quorum Prevents Minister Impeachment

PA0902201493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] National Congress President Carlos Vallejo suspended the extraordinary sessions on 8 February for a lack of quorum. He summoned a new session for 9 February at 1600 to begin the impeachment of Mauricio Pinto, minister of industry, commerce, integration, and fisheries. It seems several legislative blocs are trying to reach an agreement to suspend the current extraordinary sessions so as not to censure the minister. Deputies (Samuel Belletine) of the Liberal Party and Mauricio Larrea of the Democratic Left said the minister did not summon the National Council on the Price of Medicines, which led to an indiscriminate increase in the prices of medicine. Pinto's summons to the Congress was suspended until this afternoon.

Guatemalan President Arrives on Official Visit

PA0902202193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano arrived in Quito on 8 February for an official visit of 64 hours, before attending the Guayaquil summit of banana exporting countries. During a dinner in Serrano's honor, President Sixto Durań-Ballen stated the summit will defend the principle of freedom of commerce. He reiterated Latin America intends to back up international law with specific actions.

The Guatemalan president noted human rights go beyond the defense of life, as they cover the rights of justice and electing leaders. He stated the summit shows Ecuador's commitment to defend free commerce of bananas. Serrano arrived in Quito on 8 February and will attend the Guayaquil summit.

Paraguay

Opposition Says Freedom March Violated Law

PY0902154093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 4

[Excerpt] "Presidential hopefuls" Domingo Laino of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party]; Luis Alfonso Resck of the Christian Democratic Party; Ricardo Canese of the Social Democratic Coalition [Concertacion Democratic Social] [as published]; Abraham Zapag of the National Alliance; Leandro Prieto Yegros, independent Colorado Party candidate; and Joel Atilio Cazal of the National Participation Broad Movement [Movimiento Amplio de Participacion Nacional] [as published] yesterday filed charges before Judge Arnulfo Arias against the Armed Forces members who participated in the "Freedom March" organized by the Colorado Party. The charges relate to violations of the Constitution and the Electoral Law. They requested an investigation.

The charges filed before Judge Arnulfo Arias at 1000 yesterday refer to the violation of the Electoral Law and the Constitution. The note explains that in defense of the peoples' will and in the desire to consolidate and defend democracy, formal charges are filed in view of an electoral crime provided for in Clause C of Article No. 345 of the Electoral Law and Article No. 173 of the National Constitution.

The charges filed by the presidential hopefuls describe the events which took place on 3 February when Cavalry and Air Force officers participated in the Colorado Party march. To provide a better understanding, the note assesses the situation that prevailed a few days before the Colorado Party event and ends by stating that there is evidence that Colorado politicians and members of the military high command "violated the National Constitution, degraded the Armed Forces institutional function, and stained the current electoral process." [passage omitted]

Committee Starts Talks With Colorado Factions

PY0902131493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 2

[Excerpt] While Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart have officially expressed their willingness to renounce their candidacies [as presidential and vice presidential hopefuls for the Colorado Party], Luis Maria Argana reaffirmed last night that the results of the party's 27 December 1993 internal elections, which his faction believes it has won, declared that his candidacy is not negotiable. He said, however, that he is willing to continue the negotiations to seek a solution to the Colorado Party's internal problem. A second meeting between the mediation committee, which has been created by the executive branch, and the rival Colorado Party factions produced very little progress although everyone expressed optimism that a solution will be achieved. For the time being the respective positions remain rigid, and the proposals for a solution are not being thoroughly studied. Today the committee will hold talks with members of the [Gustavo] Diaz de Vivar-[Julio Cesar] Frutos faction, and it will then hold talks with the faction headed by General Jorge Fretes Davalos, [retired].

The negotiating committee, which was created by President Andres Rodriguez to seek a soluton to the Colorado Party's crisis, held its first meeting on the evening of 5 November with members of the Wasmosy-Seifart faction. The meeting was held at the home of former Education Minister Dionisio Gonzalez Torres, who is a member of the committee together with Foreign Minister [Alexis] Frutos Vaesken; Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, secretary general of the presidency; and Justice and Labor Minister Oscar Paciello.

The foreign minister said that "they (Wasmosy and Seifart) are willing to renounce their candidacies but they asked that the others (Argana and Ybanez) also renounce their candidacies in order to sit down and talk on equal terms." [passage omitted]

National Encounter Releases Government Platform

PY0902143493 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] During a meeting presided over by National Encounter [EN] presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas, the EN this morning released its government program. The EN candidate later reaffirmed his commitment "to respect and back the ideas outlined in our government platform, which has been released to all sectors of Paraguayan society."

He added: "There are no more dogmas. The EN, aware of this situation, is looking for realistic and pragmatic solutions because the Paraguayan people can wait no longer. Solutions should be found urgently." Caballero Vargas then focused on the main points of his platform.

Carlos Martini, member of the secretariat of the EN technical political team, and secretariat coordinator Juan Maria Carron spoke before Caballero Vargas. Martini, who opened the meeting, said: "This program is the result of almost two years of collective work by highly qualified professionals and technicians, with ideas and proposals from people willing to cooperate in the historic task of creating a new way of doing politics in our country."

Basic Areas

The EN platform for 1993-98 covers four main areas: economic growth, social democracy, human rights and participation, and the position and defense of the state in the international community. Here are the most significant topics of the first three areas.

Economic Democracy

1 - The role of the state will be based on the principle: "Promote the market as much as possible with state participation as much as necessary."

- the state will participate in the orientation of the development model.
- the state will correct the mistakes of a competitive market economy.
- the state will promote social equality.
- private and public sectors will undertake joint actions.
- the state will guarantee goods and services (health education, security, etc.)
- the state will promote productive investment.
- the state will promote the participation of social organizations.
- the state will support small enterprises.

2 - Investment and savings
- state incentives will be granted to the productive sector.
- the tax system will promote savings and investment.

3 - Industrial, agricultural, and livestock development
- increased exports will be balanced with the efficient use of imports.
- the marginal situation of peasants will be changed and land reform will be implemented.

4 - Infrastructure
- transportation and communication facilities will be improved.

5 - Energy
- reasonable prices will be used to improve living standards and promote full development.
- the electric power supply service will be improved through efficient managerial control.

6 - Science and Technology
- the creation of programs to support research and transfer of scientific and technological knowledge will be promoted.

7 - Environment
- the national territory will be subdivided based on the sustainable development potential of each zone or region, preserving representative and critical zones in their natural state.

Social Democracy

1 - Land Reform
- land reform will be the basic tool for promoting full development in the rural sector and for preserving the environment.
- land tenancies will be restructured through various supplemental channels.
- technical assistance will be granted to the private sector, under government supervision.

2 - Health and Social Security
- total health coverage.
- organization of the health system.
- essential health care plan.
- national nutrition plan.
- modification of the current social security system.

3 - Culture
- mechanisms to promote access to various artistic activities will be implemented.
- cultural proposals that advocate respect for democratic principles and human rights will be implemented.

4 - Education
- the current system will be strengthened, expediting its democratization, decentralization, and regionalization.
- multicultural, multiethnic, and intercultural education will be promoted.

5- Housing
- the national housing plan will be restructured to adjust it to the country's housing sector situation.
- work by municipal authorities will be promoted, fostering their participation in these plans.

6 - Labor Policy
- in-service training of workers will be promoted.
- real equality between men and women in the work place will be promoted.
- public servants' social achievements will be guaranteed.

Human Rights and Participation

1 - Women
- regulations will be issued for the constitutional principle of equal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for men and women.
- the Penal Code and the Proceedings Code will be modified to protect women from all types of violence.
- policies will be implemented to promote the participation of women in all political activities and in elective posts.

2 - Youths
- the provision of training and the creation of jobs to overcome the current situation among marginalized classes
- the implementation of equal opportunities in education.
- the provision of culture and recreation opportunities for youths.
- the encouragement of youth participation and activism.

3 - Infancy and Adolescence
- priority attention will be given to children and adolescents in the economic and social development plans of the National Planning Secretariat.
- information systems will be adopted and efforts, resources, and actions will be rationalized to implement support, promotion, and assistance programs for children.
- the current minors' reformatory system will be modified.

4 - Indigenous People
- indigenous people will be properly represented at the various social and government levels.
- measures will be adopted to change education programs that advocate ethnocentrism or that ignore the multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual nature of Paraguayan society.

5 - Disabled Persons
- Preventive action will be undertaken to neutralize the main causes through health promotion programs.

Peru

Political Leaders on Presidential Reelection

PA0602133693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The initiative by the official bloc at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] to introduce direct presidential reelection in the country has generated intense debate in the CCD. Here is a report:

[Begin recording] [Congresswoman Martha Chavez of the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition] My opinion is that immediate reelection is admissible and advisable for the country. We are not talking about people but the institution, about whether immediate reelection should be incorporated into the Constitution. My opinion is that it should be because there is no valid argument against it. Actually, there are valid favorable arguments, including the fact that the country should not be deprived of the chance to keep a president who shows he works well for the country.

[Unidentified reporter] Will this initiative become a bill?

[Chavez] Yes, in due time. I will argue in favor of the respective article. I will defend it because I think it is advisable for the country to allow immediate reelection. [end recording]

This is a thorny issue because the opposition, as was the case during the Alan Garcia administration, has announced it will close ranks. On this occasion, however, there is a citizen's movement tipping the balance in favor of direct presidential reelection. This is in keeping with the approval rating that Alberto Fujimori enjoys among Peruvians.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Would you agree with the reelection of the president of the Republic?

[First unidentified speaker] Yes, I would.

[Reporter] Why?

[First speaker] He is doing many things other presidents did not. For example, with the terrorists.

[Second unidentified speaker] Definitely, because he already started a transformation and if he leaves it half done the country will be the same. If he continues, he could fix the country.

[Third unidentified speaker] Yes, I would agree.

[Reporter] Why?

[Third speaker] Because we should not make another drastic change, and to ensure a continuity of policies.

[Fourth unidentified speaker] Yes, I would agree with President Fujimori's reelection. I would have no qualms.

[Reporter] Would you agree with the possibility of reelecting the president of the Republic?

[Fifth unidentified speaker] I do not, but if a majority elects him, well....

[Sixth unidentified speaker, in progress] ...if reelection could be applied to the incumbent president, given that reelection was banned when he was elected, do you understand? That point is being discussed. But if the Constitution, in a permanent or temporary provision, stated that reelection is applicable to the incumbent president, there would be no impediment, because it is a constituent power, and constituent power can do it all legally. [end recording]

The reelection of Alberto Fujimori is a political issue that could be subject to a referendum. But if the provision applies only to future presidents that would not be necessary, because the new provision would be incorporated into the new Constitution, which must be approved or rejected by the population. In view of this, the opposition voiced its stand.

[Begin recording] [Jorge Barba Caballero, Democratic Coordination congressman] This is a test to see how the public reacts to news that should undoubtedly cause alarm, not only within the international community, but also among conscientious groups of our fatherland.

[Lourdes Flores Nano, Popular Christian Party leader] He who exercises power in a democracy that is not very solid—such as Peruvian democracy, unfortunately the current government is an clear example of this—uses that power to perpetuate himself or to try to cling to power.

[Henry Pease, Democratic Movement leader] I oppose reelection. I think the formula existing in the current Constitution is the best. We could propose to completely outlaw reelection but at least one term should pass before reelection is possible because in Peru the president of the Republic has too much power. [end recording]

NSC Appointment Possibly 'Bad News' for Peru

PY0902213693 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p A2

[Article by Manuel D'Ornellas: "Storm Clouds in Washington"]

[Text] Bill Clinton's announcement that he has appointed Richard Feinberg as head of the National Security Council's [NSC] Latin America desk might be bad news for Peru. The NSC, which is based in the White House itself, is a powerful body charged with formulating the U.S. foreign policy that later will be implemented by the State Department.

Feinberg is considered to be a puritan as far as constitutional matters and human rights are concerned in light of the role he played as a member of Jimmy Carter's administration. The specific threat posed to Peru by his appointment is that he may see only the excesses committed in actions designed to repress terrorism while downplaying the brutal crimes by extremists.

In this regard, it would be useful if the Americans endorsed the position taken recently by British Deputy Foreign Secretary William Garel-Jones, who noted that it is one thing for a government to follow a condemnable policy of systematically violating human rights and another situation altogether when isolated cases of human rights violations occur. Peru does not belong in the former category. President Fujimori did well in reaffirming this a few days ago. In other words, Peru cannot be compared to Argentina under [the de facto government of General Jorge Rafael] Videla.

However, people like Feinberg may be unaware of this. In the first place, he probably will listen more carefully to people like Gustavo Gorriti, who writes true horror stories about the Peruvian reality in the U.S. press, than to the Peruvian Embassy. Secondly, The U.S. press is being neither objective nor balanced in its reporting on Peru. For instance, as of yesterday no major U.S. newspaper had analyzed the outcome of the Peruvian municipal elections yet.

The U.S. press gives coverage to Gorriti's far-fetched criticism but fails to report on such a significant democratic event as the 29 January free election, in which Fujimori's formidable "dictatorship" was indeed unable to make any of its candidates to win.

The U.S. press is of course influenced by Peruvians living abroad who are steadily campaigning against the government. The government, for its part, is doing nothing or very little to counter this campaign.

The government must seek better counsel on this subject because we may be entering a four-year period of difficult communications with the Clinton administration.

Japan Grants Credit for Financial System Reform

PA0902200893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, through the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], granted a $100 million credit to finance the program of reforms to Peru's financial system.

The announced Japanese credit complements credit granted in March 1992 by the IDB to consolidate the macroeconomic stabilization of Peru, reduce the participation of the state in the financial system, and improve the insolvency of the system.

The Japanese credit was granted on a 40-year term, which includes a 10-year grace period and a 3-percent annual interest rate.

Colombian Rebels Cross Border, Clash With Soldiers

PA0902152693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Guerrillas of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] entered Peruvian territory and clashed with Peruvian soldiers of the Subteniente Garcia Post in the border province of Putumayo, Loreto.

A report issued by the Public Relations Office of the Armed Forces Joint Command stated that two Peruvian soldiers were wounded in the clash. The Colombian guerrillas sustained an undetermined number of casualties. One of the wounded soldiers, Juan Torres, was evacuated to the Ecuadoran town of Lago Agrio and from there to Quito to receive emergency medical treatment.

The command of the Northeastern National Security Zone has ordered a joint staff mission to evaluate the situation and to adopt appropriate measures.

Venezuela

Defense Minister Denies Military Arms Theft

PA0902231593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Interview with Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez by Milagros Mendoza at the Miraflores Presidential Palace—live]

[Excerpts] [Mendoza] I have with me the defense minister, who has just concluded his weekly review of events with the president. We want to talk about a news story on an alleged arms theft at Fort Tiuna. Mr. Minister, can you tell us if this is true?

[Jimenez] It is not true at all. There has been no weapons theft at Fort Tiuna. We have repeatedly heard stories about arms thefts for about six months. There have been no arms thefts at any of the military installations. The only weapons we have reported missing during the past few months were the ones that disappeared on 27 November. [passage omitted]

[Mendoza] What about certain officers said to be linked to subversive movements?

[Jimenez] The only ones who have gone before the Investigating Council were found to have links with subversives and have been discharged. The rest of the personnel are at various bases and garrisons dedicated to their military activities.

U.S. Citizen Reportedly On Hijacked Plane

PA1002045293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Report by Melissa Soto]

[Text] According to Police Inspector Pablo Sinoza, head of the Areas General Division, the small Venezuelan plane that was hijacked on 6 February may be in Colombian territory. According to Sinoza, the small Super King Air plane, license number YV-535-VE-80, owned by the Viaprovia Company in the tourist transportation business in southern Venezuela, was about to take off with one Canadian and six U.S. tourists from the

Laguna Larga complex in Apure State bound for Maiquetia International Airport. Four individuals, heavily-armed with pistols and grenades, violently boarded the airplane and overpowered the passengers to hijack the airplane. However, in view of the plane's weight restrictions, the hijackers decided to take only Venezuelan pilot Jorge Humberto Rubi, 55, U.S. tourist (Gina Marquez), and Canadian (Clayton Loutre). They left behind five persons who have served as witnesses to help draft composite sketches of the hijackers.

[Begin Sinoza recording] We do not have any more news. The hijackers spoke very few words when they took over the plane. We can only suppose they may be narcoguerrillas or guerrillas. We expect to find out within the next few hours, in coordination with Colombian authorities, what this is all about. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the pilot's relatives are desperately waiting for any information as to the whereabouts of Jorge Humberto Rubi and the remaining passengers. Right now the Judicial Technical Police are in contact with the Colombian police corps to help locate this hijacked airplane and its occupants.

AD Chief Proposes Ramos as Pre-Candidate

PA1002040493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Pedro Tabata Guzman, deputy chief of the Democratic Action [AD] party's parliamentary wing, proposed Deputy Henry Ramos as the White Party presidential pre-candidate because he believes that Ramos is the best option. Deputy Pedro Tabata said that his proposal has nothing to do with party interests because it was mentioned at the party's National Executive Committee that he, Tabata, would be appointed head of the parliamentary wing for this period of ordinary sessions. Tabata also explained that he is proposing Henry Ramos in response to the country's need for a man who is prepared to face the upcoming situation.

[Begin Tabata recording] I believe this young candidate, who is 47 years old, reflects the feeling throughout America when presidents such as Menem, Gaviria, Fujimori, Collor de Mello, and just recently Clinton in the United States were chosen. Among the candidacies of Osvaldo Alvarez Paz, Eduardo Fernandez, and Andres Velazquez, the candidacy of Henry Ramos is undoubtedly a guarantee of hope and freshness for all Venezuelan people. [end recording]

Radical Cause Party Proposes Caldera Withdraw

PA1002150293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] The political machinery of Democratic Action [AD] and the Social Christian Party [Copei] began preparations to enter the presidential race. In addition, the Movement Toward Socialism [MAS] and the Radical Cause Party started their engines and have declared themselves in permanent session.

Radical Cause Party leader Pablo Medina stated his organization's choice for a candidate is clear. However, they oppose candidate-hopeful Rafael Caldera because he divided Copei and MAS.

[Begin Medina recording] If he is not capable of uniting MAS and Copei, he cannot be expected to unite the country. If he is going to use MAS to hold a referendum, then he should not be part of Copei. What we are trying to point out is that Caldera's candidacy faces many obstacles, despite the fact that his convergence idea is very interesting. We are struggling to unite the Armed Forces. We believe and publicly propose that Dr. Caldera should think seriously—undoubtedly Dr. Caldera is an important and worthwhile figure in Venezuela—about declining or reconsidering his unannounced candidacy and instead support the Radical Cause Party. [end recording]

With the support of Dr. Caldera, the outlook in MAS was reasonably clear until December 1992. However, the situation is different now. MAS is studying several debates in its national debate. Some ask for a candidate of their own; others propose a referendum; there is a sector that supports Caldera; and Lara State MAS Regional Council supports Andres Velazquez.

Deputy Pablo Medina said the Radical Cause Party candidate will be Andres Velazquez, Bolivar state governor. The MAS National Directorate's decision is pending. The directorate will meet from 13 to 14 February in Central Park.